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CANADIAN BATTLEFIELD MEMORIALS





CANADA

Canadian Battlefield Memorials

PREPARED AND ISSUED BY
THE CANADIAN BATTLEFIELDS MEMORIALS COMMISSION

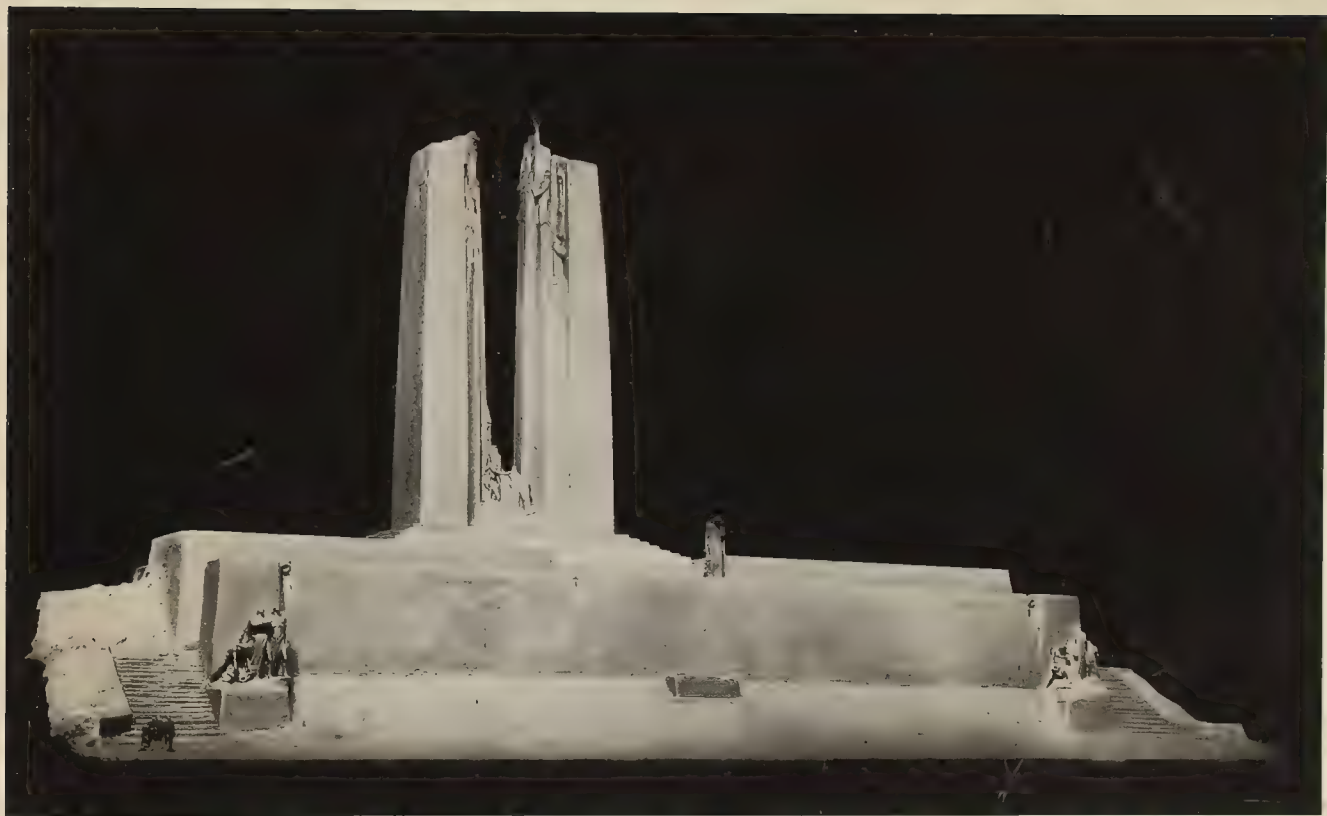




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Ottawa
1929

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"THIS IS NOT A STATUE ON A PEDESTAL,
THE CONVENTIONAL FORM OF PUBLIC
MONUMENT. IT IS A MEMORIAL TO NO
MAN, BUT A MEMORIAL FOR A NATION."





HIS book is designed to assist in acquainting the public with the steps which have been taken by the Canadian Government to commemorate in France and Belgium the exploits of

Canadian troops in the Great War. The frontispiece is an illustration of the memorial now in course of erection, on Vimy Ridge: that great rampart flung across a front of five miles between Arras and Lens, which, since the 9th April, 1917, has been inseparably connected with the name of Canada. At 5.30 o'clock on that morning the Canadian Corps attacked with all four Divisions in line, and the result was such as to justify the short but pregnant remark of a French Minister "Canada won Vimy Ridge and it belongs to her." The Monument, however, is designed to commemorate not only the taking of the Ridge and other engagements generally described as the Battles of Arras, but also the whole achievement of Canadian troops in France during the Great War. These include the marvellous advance on 8th August, 1918, in front of Amiens, which penetrated the enemy position for a distance of eight miles and was the beginning of the end; the breaking of the Drocourt-Quéant Switch of the Hindenburg line on 2nd September, 1918, followed by the attack over the Canal du Nord on 27th September and the taking of Bourlon Wood. These three events were comprised in what is known as the Last Hundred Days, and separate memorials of them have been erected at Le Quesnel, Dury and Bourlon Wood. The monument also commemorates the long hard slogging struggle, known as the Battles of the Somme, which took place nearly two years earlier between September and November of 1916, and which has been separately commemorated by a memorial at Courcellette. Though Vimy was not, in the opinion of some, the greatest achievement of the Canadian Corps either in strategic importance or results obtained, it is nevertheless the name most closely

FOREWORD

associated with Canada both among our own people and others. There it was that the Canadian Corps first fought as a unit and, as its components were drawn from all parts of the country, Vimy may be considered as the first appearance of our young nation in arms. Certain occasions, by reason of public appreciation, take on a greater significance as time rolls by. It may well be that in the years to come Vimy will be to Canada what Agincourt is to England. For these reasons the Government and Parliament of Canada, through the Canadian Battlefields Memorials Commission, desiring to interpret aright the national sentiment with regard to these great historical events, selected Vimy Ridge as the most suitable location for the main Canadian War Memorial in Europe.

In Belgium a special memorial has been erected at St. Julien. Public imagination abroad was first captured by Canadian Troops in the spring of 1915. On 22nd April, a warm and sunny day, the 1st Canadian Division withstood the German onslaught on the occasion when poison gas was first used. They were considered, as evidenced by Field-Marshal Lord French's despatch, to have saved the day. The Ypres Salient, possibly the most blood-stained piece of ground in the world, was to see the Canadians again; at Mount Sorrel and on the line from Hooge to St. Eloi between April and August, 1916; and in October and November, 1917, when the whole Corps won the terrible battle of Passchendaele. To commemorate these events separate memorials have been erected at Hill 62, and Crest Farm, Passchendaele.

The details of the treatment of the battlefield memorial sites, the roads constructed, the landscape gardening and the tablets erected are given in the following pages. It is the hope of the Commission that the memorials will be considered not unworthy of the deeds commemorated and that its work generally will meet with the approval of the Canadian people.

Chairman

Canadian Battlefields Memorials Commission

INTRODUCTION

Shortly after the Armistice, in November, 1918, proposals were advanced for the erection by the various countries of the British Empire of suitable memorials upon selected battlefield sites.

In February, 1919, the Battle Exploits Memorials Committee was formed in Great Britain and to it Brigadier-General H. T. Hughes was appointed as Canada's representative. Previously a meeting of Canadian officers, at which the Corps Commander, General Sir Arthur Currie, presided, had considered which exploits of the Canadian Forces should be commemorated in the way suggested and it was decided that application should be made for eight memorial sites.

The project was submitted to the Canadian Government and an appropriation for preliminary expenses was made by Parliament. Eventually the matter was referred to a Special Committee of the House of Commons, which reported on May 6th, 1920. The Committee's report and the evidence taken before it are included in this volume.

The Committee recommended, *inter alia*, (1) that eight memorials of a permanent character and worthy of the events commemorated should be erected on these sites; (2) that a competition in design, open to all Canadian architects, designers, sculptors and other artists should be held to determine the design or designs to be adopted; (3) that the holding of the competition, the selection of designs, the letting of contracts and the prosecution of the work generally could be best undertaken by a small honorary commission.

From information then available it was considered that the expense involved would approximate \$1,500,000.

Following the report of the Special Committee of the House of Commons and in anticipation of the appointment of the Commission, Brigadier-General H. T. Hughes, who had already done a considerable

amount of preliminary work, was detailed as Chief Engineer in connection with the whole project.

By Order in Council dated September 2nd, 1920 (P.C. 2146), the Canadian Battlefields Memorials Commission was constituted and the following were appointed thereto:

Major-General the Honourable S. C. Mewburn, C.M.G., K.C., M.P.
The Honourable Rodolphe Lemieux, K.C., M.P.
Lieut.-General Sir R. E. W. Turner, V.C., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.
The Honourable J. G. Turriff.
Colonel R. W. Leonard.

Subsequently the Honourable S. C. Mewburn was appointed Chairman of the Commission and Colonel H. C. Osborne was appointed Honorary Secretary.

The Commission held its first meeting on November 26th, 1920, and proceeded at once to consider conditions for the competition in design. Mr. P. E. Nobbs, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A., was appointed architectural adviser to the Commission.

It was decided that the competition should be in two stages. In the first stage drawings only were to be submitted. Not less than ten nor more than twenty of the competitors in the first stage were to be invited to submit models in the second or final stage. The following were appointed as professional assessors:—

Professor C. H. Reilly, O.B.E., B.A., F.R.I.B.A., representing the Royal Institute of British Architects (London).
M. Paul P. Cret, representing the Société Centrale des Architectes (Paris).
Mr. Frank Darling, F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A., representing the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

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It was understood that the awards of these assessors should be accepted and it was provided that each competitor admitted to the second stage of the competition should receive an honorarium of \$500 towards the expense of preparing models.

In accordance with the above 160 designs were placed before the assessors who rendered their report on April 21st, 1921. It was considered that seventeen designs entitled the authors to enter the final competition. These were:—

Walter S. Allward, Toronto.
Cecil Burgess, Ottawa.
F. Chapman Clemesha, Regina.
Chas. S. Cobb, Toronto.
Paul Domville and Lester B. Husband, Hamilton.
W. A. and C. A. Gagnon, Montreal.
G. W. Hill, Montreal.
A. V. King, Montreal.
F. Lessore, Toronto.
Richard T. Perry, Vancouver.
Kenneth E. Rea, Montreal.
S. D. Ritchie, Montreal.
Duke W. Rowat, Toronto.
Ramsay Traquair, Montreal.
G. E. Tremblay, Iberville.
J. Emile Vanier, Montreal.
P. R. Wilson, Montreal.

In the final stage seventeen models were submitted. The assessors rendered their report on September 10th, 1921, and recommended that two designs alone should be executed, namely those by Mr. W. S. Allward and Mr. F. C. Clemesha. They said:—

“Of these designs, by Mr. Allward and Mr. Clemesha, that by Mr. Allward, which in our opinion is specially fine and makes a very high appeal to the imagination, we suggest should be erected once only It is a design of such individuality and com-

plexity that its character precludes it from the possibility of repetition. On the other hand the design of Mr. Clemesha, while belonging to the same school of thought, is its exact opposite in this respect. It is of a very simple shape which can readily be used in several places and under varying conditions of site.”

As provided by the conditions various prizes were awarded to competitors.

In accordance with the award of the assessors, contracts were entered into with Mr. Allward and Mr. Clemesha and arrangements were made for them, after giving further study to their models in Canada, to proceed to Great Britain and Belgium respectively with a view to the preparation of large scale models and the superintendence of the work on the ground.

In the meantime the Chief Engineer, who had previously explored the battlefields under very difficult conditions, was instructed to proceed with a vast amount of preliminary work. The immediate programme included the acquisition of land for eight memorial sites, three in Belgium and five in France, as well as land for the construction of roads, notably from Hooze, on the Ypres-Menin Road, to Hill 62, a distance of 1 mile 322 yards, and from a point on the Lens-Arras Road to the memorial site on Vimy Ridge, a distance of 2 miles 299 yards. In addition the road from Passchendaele Village to the site at Crest Farm was to be reconstructed. At a later date a road was built leading to the site at Bournon Wood.

The acquisition of these parcels of land presented formidable difficulties as property boundaries, land-marks, etc., had been completely obliterated by shell-fire. Therefore, the task of relocating the boundaries and establishing the exact position of the sites and road locations, with reference to the cadastral plans which existed previous to 1914, necessitated prolonged and careful instrumental surveys. Furthermore, the inability in many cases to locate the owners and the fact that the properties had passed into the hands of trustees for heirs, who were sometimes minors, made long legal processes necessary.

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In the case of Bourlon Wood the necessary ground was most generously presented to Canada by the Comte de Francqueville. In this case special legislation was required to legalize the gift and the Deed bears the signature of the President of the French Republic.

The preparation of all sites involved clearing up, levelling, grading, tile drainage and the demolishing of deep dug-outs. Under the direction of the Officer in Charge of Landscape Architecture, soils were tested to determine the selection of shrubs and trees, and alternative landscape plans were prepared. The principal nurseries were visited and young trees were selected. Two nursery sites were rented, one at Hooze and one near Poperinghe, and about 12,000 young trees were planted for use when required at the memorial sites.

The monument at St. Julien was completed in the spring of 1923 and the formal unveiling by H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught took place with appropriate ceremony on the 8th July, 1923. The occasion was graced by the presence of H.R.H. The Crown Prince of Belgium. The main address was delivered by Lieutenant-General Sir R. E. W. Turner, V.C., and Marshal Foch, who followed, paid a distinguished tribute to the Canadian troops. The Belgian Government furnished a battalion of infantry. The Guard of Honour was composed of ex-members of the Canadian Forces residing in London, England.

Almost immediately after the completion of the monument at St. Julien, the Commission were called upon to consider the question of repeating the design seven times, as recommended in the award of the assessors. The monument itself, erected on the site, proved to be very impressive, but various views as to repetition were communicated to the Commission from widely different sources. It was considered by some that to repeat the monument would be to detract from its importance; by others that the erection of too many tall monuments along the battle-front would savour of ostentation; by others that the design (a soldier resting on "arms reversed") while suitable for certain sites was not suitable for others where quick victories were obtained. In a special report, after a visit to Belgium, Professor C. H. Reilly, one of the assessors, mentioned the fact that the several sites, after treatment from a landscape architectural point of view, constituted memorials in themselves.

The Commission were loth to suggest a departure from the course recommended by the assessors, but felt in duty bound to deal with the matter in the light of later developments and conditions. Due weight had also to be given to the programme of monumentation in Belgium and France proposed by other countries. In the end the Commission reached the conclusion that the design should not be repeated and that it would be sufficient to place on each site a simple central feature bearing appropriate inscriptions. With this in view various models were studied. It was felt that if the idea of erecting tall monuments on all these sites were abandoned it would be a mistake to take half measures. In other words, it would be undesirable to place on the sites anything which, as monuments, might be considered insignificant. The general view was that what was required was a low massive feature which would quite obviously be designed to carry the necessary inscription and give a meaning to the site. It was finally decided to recommend to the Government that there be placed on each of the sites in Belgium and France, except St. Julien and Vimy Ridge, six in all, a block of grey Canadian granite. Each block, such as was proposed, would weigh approximately fourteen tons and would be surrounded by low steps. It was proposed that the blocks should bear inscriptions, in English and French, describing the events commemorated, and such decoration as might be suitable, e.g., a finely carved wreath of maple leaves on two sides.

In accordance with the foregoing, careful consideration was given by the Chief Engineer, Brigadier-General Hughes, and the architectural adviser Mr. Nobbs, to the form and proportions of the granite blocks to be placed on these sites. Eventually a design was agreed upon by the Commission and approved by Order in Council dated March 16th, 1925, P.C. 392. A contract was awarded to the Stanstead Granite Quarries Company Limited, Beebe, P.Q. The granite was shipped to Europe and the blocks were placed in position at the sites.

The development of all sites, other than Vimy, from a landscape architectural point of view, was carried out over several years under the immediate direction of Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Ross. As the sites were completed it became apparent that the best and most economical procedure with regard to maintenance would be to arrange with the Imperial

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War Graves Commission, which has permanent forces on the ground in connection with War Cemeteries, to do this work as a "repayment service." This was done and the result has been highly satisfactory.

The French Government generously offered to grant to Canada the perpetual use of a tract of land on Vimy Ridge as a site and setting for the Canadian Memorial. This offer having been accepted, appropriate legislation was passed by the French Parliament. Arrangements have been made to reforest, at a moderate cost, the major part of this tract, leaving it otherwise in its natural state; and to reserve 25 acres immediately surrounding the monument for special treatment.

The monument for Vimy Ridge is of imposing proportions and complex design, and its erection has presented a problem of considerable difficulty. The precise location is at Hill 145 opposite the King's O.P. (Observation Post). From this point a wide view is had to the eastward towards Lens, Arleux and Fresnoy, far across the Douai Plain; and to the southward across the Scarpe to the heights of Monchy-le-Preux. Test-holes were sunk on the ground to determine the quality of the sub-soil. In preparing for the monument and constructing the road from the Lens-Arras highway to the site, some twenty-six dug-outs of great depth were cleaned out and lined and covered with reinforced concrete. In the preparation of the foundation design, and in carrying out the reinforced concrete work, the Commission had the advantage of the professional services of Doctor Oscar Faber, O.B.E., D.Sc., M.Inst.-C.E., etc., one of the most eminent engineers in Great Britain.

The selection of the stone for this memorial was made only after prolonged and exhaustive investigation. The requirements were: a material free from flaws or sand-cracks, of an agreeable colour, tractable enough for fine carving, and of the maximum durability. Such a stone was eventually found on the coast of Jugo-Slavia on the east side of the

Adriatic. Ancient structures made of this stone—some dating from the time of the Roman Emperor Diocletian—are still in existence and give evidence that its wearing quality and eventual colour are all that could be desired. Previously a stone known as Brown Pouillenay had been seriously considered. This stone, which is procured near Dijon, France, appeared from samples submitted, to possess the necessary qualities, but upon further investigation it developed that it could not be supplied in the sizes and quality desired. A change and further search became necessary which involved unlooked for delay.

A contract for the construction and erection of the monument was made with Messrs. H. T. Jenkins and Son, Limited, Torquay, England, on April 1st, 1925, and amended (owing to the change of stone specified) on March 9th, 1926. Owing to the limited season during which work can be carried out on Vimy Ridge and the large amount of stone cutting and sculpture, the monument will take several years to complete.

During the progress of the Commission's operations requests have been received to erect monuments at places in Belgium and France other than those decided upon. Such action has been considered undesirable, but it was felt that two special events, namely the landing of the 1st Canadian Division at St. Nazaire in 1915 and the capture of Mons by the Canadian Corps on Armistice Day, might with propriety be commemorated by the Canadian Government. Descriptions and illustrations of the tablets erected at these places are contained in the following pages.



The narratives of battles included in this book were prepared by Colonel A. F. Duguid, D.S.O., Director of the Historical Section, General Staff, Ottawa, and are published by permission of the Department of National Defence.

THE CANADIAN MEMORIAL AT ST. NAZAIRE

In February, 1915, the 1st Canadian Division, having finished its hard winter on Salisbury Plain, landed at the Port of St. Nazaire, France, at the mouth of the Loire River and proceeded to the northern front. This landing is of historic interest because it marks the first appearance on the continent of Europe of an army embodied on the continent of America. Negotiations were undertaken with the municipal authorities of St. Nazaire with a view to the erection in that city of a memorial tablet. The project having been approved, a tablet was erected in the Hotel de Ville and unveiled on June 25th, 1926.

ST. NAZAIRE

HERE LANDED THE FIRST CANADIAN DIVISION EIGHTEEN THOUSAND STRONG ON THE 12TH FEBRUARY, 1915: THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY THOUSAND FOLLOWED: THROUGH-OUT FOUR YEARS THE CANADIANS FOUGHT THE GERMANS: AFTER ENGAGING IN TWENTY-SIX BATTLES THEY MARCHED IN VICTORY TO THE RHINE.

ICI, LE 12 FEVRIER 1915, DEBARQUERENT DIX-HUIT MILLE SOLDATS CANADIENS AVANT-GARDE D'UNE ARMEE DE TROIS CENT TRENTE-HUIT MILLE HOMMES. CETTE ARMEE COM-BATTIT LES ALLEMANDS PENDANT QUATRE ANS, LIVRA VINGT-SIX BATAILLES ET, AVEC LES ALLIES VICTORIEUX, MARCHA SUR LE RHIN.



ICI LE 12 FEVRIER 1913
 DEBARRAVERENT BRYNHYTT MULL
 SCLAS CANVENS DYNFALDE ET
 AMWÈS LE TROIS CENT JEFFRE-HUTT
 MULLS AMWÈS SEFFALDE GEMANT
 LES ALLELANDS PENDANT CAVREANS
 WYRA VINGT SIX BATTALLS ET AMWÈS
 ALLES VETÈRENS MARCHA MUR LE RHIN

HERE LANDED THE FIRST CANADIAN
 EMIGRANT SEVENTEEN THOUSAND STRONG
 ON THE 12 FEBRUARY 1913
 THREE HUNDRED & TWENTY TWO YEARS
 BEFORE THE CONQUEST FOUR YEARS
 THE CANADIANS FIGHT THE FRENCH
 AT ORLÉANS IN TWENTY SIX BATTLES
 ALLY ASSAULTED IN VAIN IN THE MIDDLE

UNVEILING OF THE CANADIAN MEMORIAL AT ST. NAZAIRE

*Extrait du discours de Monsieur Blanco,
maire de St-Nazaire*

C'est pour moi une joie de recevoir, au nom de la ville de Saint-Nazaire, la plaque commémorative destinée à perpétuer le souvenir du débarquement des troupes canadiennes dans notre port . . . Je sais que je traduis fidèlement leurs sentiments en vous priant de transmettre à votre gouvernement et à vos compatriotes notre profonde reconnaissance.

Lorsque notre pays appela ses enfants pour défendre son sol menacé, . . . le peuple britannique et ses Dominions répondirent "Présent."

Le Canada se montra particulièrement enthousiaste et fut au premier rang de ceux qui sentirent l'injure faite au droit des peuples et à l'esprit d'indépendance. Nous ne saurons jamais dire combien nos compatriotes furent touchés des sentiments qui se manifestaient ainsi en notre faveur.

C'est que le Canada a été jadis la terre hospitalière qui accueillit beaucoup de nos compatriotes, à une époque où l'on ne goûtait pas encore chez nous les joies de la liberté. Ces exilés ont gardé en leur cœur l'amour du pays de leurs ancêtres . . . En 1915, nous les avons vus traverser les rues de notre cité; ils passaient non en conquérants, mais en humbles chevaliers venant apporter au monde leur effort pour défendre la justice des peuples et imposer à jamais la paix.

Ah! Messieurs, il en est tombé de vos compatriotes! Leur sang s'est mêlé au sang des nôtres; ils ont scellé plus fortement, si je puis dire, les liens qui unissent impérissablement la France et le Canada . . . La haine ne les animait pas: . . . ils ont été les martyrs de l'idée.

Messieurs, pour que leur sacrifice ne soit pas vain, travaillons toujours en faveur de la paix définitive.

Je suis assuré d'être l'interprète fidèle de mes administrés en transmettant au peuple canadien, avec nos sentiments de gratitude, l'assurance de notre amitié indéfectible et, si vous le voulez bien, j'ajouterai de notre fraternité.

*Extract from the address of Monsieur Blanco,
Mayor of St. Nazaire*

It is for me a joy to receive in the name of the city of St. Nazaire the tablet which commemorates the landing of Canadian troops in our port . . . I know that I express faithfully the feelings of our citizens in asking you to transmit to your Government and your countrymen our profound gratitude.

When our country called to her citizens to defend our menaced land, Great Britain and her Dominions also answered "We are with you" . . . Canada was among the first to recognize the injustice done to the spirit of independence. We shall never be able to express how much our people were moved by the feelings thus manifested towards them.

Canada was already a hospitable soil to many of our compatriots, at a time when we did not yet fully enjoy our liberty. These exiles have ever kept a love for the country of their ancestors . . . In 1915 we saw your soldiers pass through the streets of our city, . . . not as conquerors, but as honourable knights bringing to the world their effort to defend the rights of nations.

Ah, gentlemen, enough of your brave soldiers fell. Their blood is mixed with ours, thereby strengthening the bonds which unite imperishably France and Canada. . . . They were not animated by hate; they were martyrs to an ideal.

Gentlemen, in order that their sacrifice may not have been made in vain, let us work always in the cause of peace.

I am a faithful interpreter of those whom I represent in expressing to the Canadian people, with our feelings of gratitude, the assurance of our unfailing friendship and, may I add, our fraternity.

ST. JULIEN

THIS COLUMN MARKS THE BATTLEFIELD WHERE 18,000
CANADIANS ON THE BRITISH LEFT WITHSTOOD THE
FIRST GERMAN GAS ATTACKS THE 22ND-24TH APRIL, 1915.
TWO THOUSAND FELL AND HERE LIE BURIED.

ICI LES 22-24 AVRIL 1915, 18,000 CANADIENS DE LA GAUCHE
BRITANNIQUE RESISTERENT VICTORIEUSEMENT AUX PRE-
MIERES ATTAQUES DE GAZ DES ALLEMANDS. DEUX MILLE
D'ENTRE EUX, GLORIEUSEMENT TOMBES, REPOSENT PRES
DE CETTE COLONNE.



ST. JULIEN MEMORIAL

A mile or so further on stands a monument which affected me beyond the power of stone. From a grey and giant sheath grow the head and shoulders of a Canadian soldier. The head, crowned with the familiar helmet, is bent, the hands are folded upon a reversed rifle; the soldier watches over those who sleep beneath. On the front of the plinth is the single word "Canada." On the sides, in raised yet hardly decipherable lettering, is the bare statement:—

"This column marks the Battlefield where 18,000 Canadians on the British Left withstood the first German gas attacks the 22nd-24th April 1915. Two thousand fell and here lie buried."

And then, shortly afterwards, I came to the Canadian monument in the middle of a tiny graveyard. A nobly gigantic head and shoulders, with round helmet, is seen growing out of a high granite column. It broods in mingled love and domination over the countryside. At the base of the column on one side is the word Canada, and on the other side a statement that on that spot 18,000 Canadians resisted the first gas attack in April, 1915, and 2,000 of them died. There is a prose that is more wonderful than poetry, and this was it. It is by far the finest memorial of the late war that I have seen, and the one that will tell future generations most about the Great War.

This has almost the power of the Greek: "Stranger, depart and tell the Lacedemonians that we lie here obeying their laws." One bows the head in humble acceptance; the bravest ornament were out of place. There is a mysterious power in this brooding figure, drawing you from the things that are to the things that were. It does more than command the landscape, it orders the spirit. The Guynemer monument is a pretty thing and a fine gesture; this is the soul of those who fell. It is conceivable that a grey day might add to the spiritual significance of this memorial; in the blazing August sun its shock is overwhelming.

—*The Evening Standard*,
London, England.
August, 1923.

—*The Daily Graphic*,
London, England.
August, 1923.

THE BATTLES OF YPRES, 1915

(1) Battle of Gravenstafel Ridge. (2) Battle of St. Julien.

In the second week of April, 1915, the 1st Canadian Division, having been withdrawn from the line South of Armentières, lay in the area between Poperinghe and Cassel, preparing to relieve the French in that part of the line which the Army Commander (General Smith-Dorrien) described as the most critical section of the British front—the Ypres Salient.

During the two months since they arrived in France the men of the Canadian Division had experienced nothing more than the usual daily routine of trench warfare in a quiet sector. All unaware, they were now to be faced by an unknown and deadly weapon in the form of asphyxiating gas: they were about to engage in one of the most desperate battles of the war, one that was to rival in intensity of fighting the great struggle that raged in the same area during the late autumn of 1914, when the old British Expeditionary Force withstood the repeated assaults of the flower of the German Army.

The frontage taken over by the Canadian Division on the 17th April was 4,400 yards in length and faced northeastwards, extending along the valley of the Stroombeek from East of Gravenstafel to the Ypres-Poelcappelle Road at a point a mile North of Keerselare. On the right, the British line ran East of Zonnebeke and Veldhoek to St. Eloi; on the left, the line towards Langemarck was held by a French Colonial Division, and carried on to the Canal at Bixschoote by French Territorials. The trenches taken over by the Canadians afforded little cover; on account of the presence of water they could rarely be three feet in depth, the supply of sand-bags was limited, steel helmets and gas masks were unknown, and the men in the forward area had little protection from enfilade or reverse fire.

The heavy shelling of Ypres and the roads and villages to the north-east gave the first warning to the troops in the line that an enemy attack was imminent. This increased at about four o'clock on the afternoon of the 22nd of April; an hour later a heavy greenish-yellow cloud could be seen rolling southwestwards from Langemarck, accompanied by heavy rifle fire and the rapid firing of the French field guns east of the Canal. Soon native French troops, overcome by the gas, came streaming southwards, and towards seven in the evening the French guns were no longer heard. It was evident that the enemy had broken through, but the full extent of the disaster was not then known.

When the battle opened, the Canadian Division had the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigades in line on the right and left respectively, each with two battalions in the trenches and one in reserve, while the two remaining battalions were in Divisional Reserve on the Canal North of Ypres. The 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade was in Army Reserve at Vlamertinghe.

At the first alarm, the reserve battalions of the brigades in the line were moved forward, and the two battalions in divisional reserve were ordered up to the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade for a counter-attack northwards on the Bois des Cuisiniers—an oak wood lying a thousand yards West of St. Julien. At midnight this attack was delivered. Charging across the open, the battalions cleared the German trench covering the Wood, through which they also forced their way, but before daylight the line was withdrawn to the captured trenches South and East of the Wood. Between there and the Canal the enemy had an open road to Ypres; fortunately he did not realize this or was unwilling to advance in the dark.

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The 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade at Vlamertinghe had also been ordered forward; two battalions were sent to the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade and went into the line West of St. Julien; the other two were ordered to attack northwards along the Ypres-Pilckem Road in conjunction with a projected French operation on their left. These two battalions attacked at daylight, but the enemy was well established on the ridges South of Pilckem and the advance came to a standstill at the foot of the ridge 4,000 yards North of Ypres. The Canadians still occupied their original front line, but there was now a flank of 6,000 yards, bending back along the Ypres-Poelcappelle Road, past the southern edge of the Bois des Cuisiniers and West to the Canal, and very lightly held.

When it became known that the Germans had secured a footing on the western bank of the Canal at Het Sas and Steenstraat, and that the French had been unable to regain the lost ground, a further attack was anticipated from the north towards St. Julien; if successful in securing the high ground between that village and Zonnebeke, this would cut off all Canadian and British troops in the Salient to the East.

At daybreak of the 24th, gas was released from the German trenches opposite the centre of the original Canadian front, and repeated attacks from Poelcappelle and Langemarck struck both faces of the new Canadian salient. There was bitter fighting East, North, and West of St. Julien: by mid-day the Germans had reached the St. Julien-Gravenstafel Road.

Further to the right, however, although suffering intensely from the effects of the gas, enfiladed from both flanks, and menaced in rear by machine guns about St. Julien, the men of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade still held their original trenches.

On the 25th, attacks delivered at dawn by British troops lent to the Canadian Division prevented the Germans from advancing southwards from St. Julien, but in the afternoon convergent attacks on the apex North of Gravenstafel compelled a withdrawal to the crest of the ridge northwest of that village. Next day the Canadian infantry was withdrawn into support positions and there remained until the night of 28th-29th, when one brigade went forward and dug a thousand yards of trench connecting up with the French, who had established the line running northwestwards from the Ypres-Pilckem Road to the Canal at Boseinghe.

In this fighting casualties in the Canadian Division, which had entered the battle with a strength of 18,000, were 6,104, of whom 1,988 were killed.

The British Commander-in-Chief (Sir John French) wrote in his Despatch on the battle: "In spite of the danger to which they were exposed the Canadians held their ground with a magnificent display of tenacity and courage; it is not too much to say that the bearing and conduct of these splendid troops averted a disaster which might have been attended with the most serious consequences."

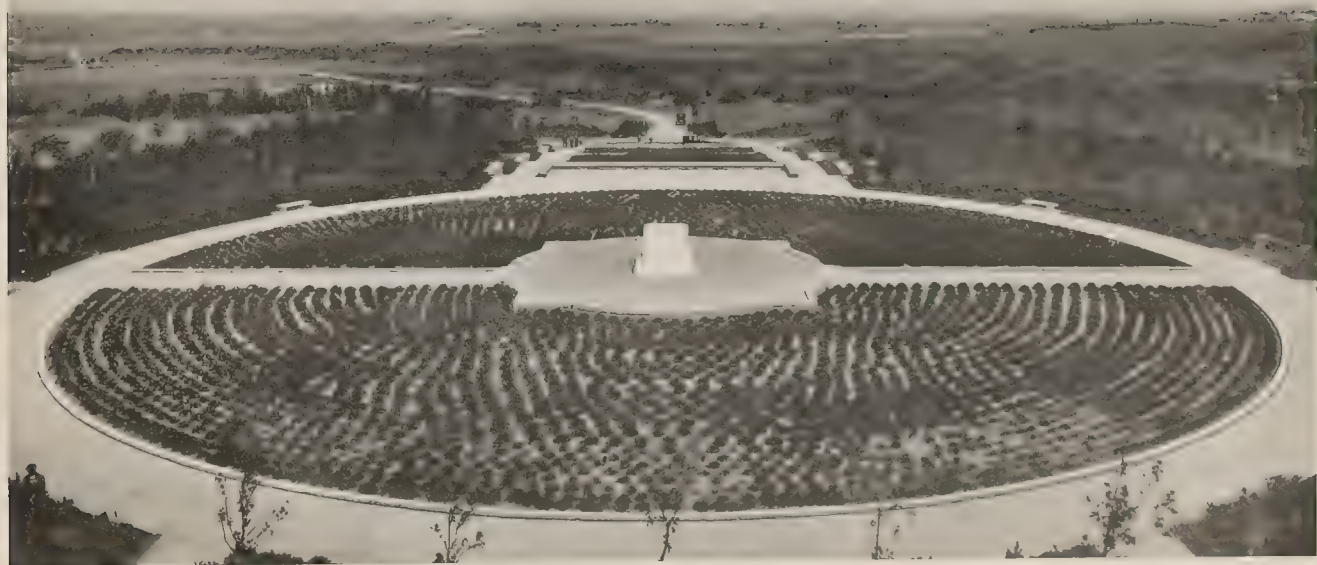
HILL 62

HERE AT MOUNT SORREL AND ON THE LINE FROM
HOOGE TO ST. ELOI THE CANADIAN CORPS FOUGHT
IN THE DEFENCE OF YPRES APRIL-AUGUST 1916.

ICI AU MONT SORREL ET SUR LA LIGNE HOOGE-
ST. ELOI LES CANADIENS COMBATTIRENT POUR LA
DEFENSE D'YPRES AVRIL-AOUT 1916.

HONOUR TO CANADIANS WHO ON THE FIELDS OF
FLANDERS AND OF FRANCE FOUGHT IN THE CAUSE
OF THE ALLIES WITH SACRIFICE AND DEVOTION

(Inscription around base of stone)



DESCRIPTION OF THE CANADIAN MEMORIAL SITE AT HILL 62, BELGIUM

By Staff Correspondent of "The Telegram", Toronto, May 1923

The approach is by a well-made road leading past Sanctuary Wood to the foot of the hill. This road is planted with maples which are taking root in French ground and flourishing. At the hill a series of terraces, broad and imposing and retained by walls of greyish schist, leads to the top. All about in harmoniously arranged rows are planted hedges of holly and yew and borders of heather and flowers which are kept constantly in bloom from a nursery nearby. The ascent is by two sides, steps in the terraces going up to the foot of the pedestal. On the level top will arise the memorial pillar. Trees well spaced and arches and benches and a stone coping about the edges will set off with artistic taste the top of the mount which commands a superb view of this much fought area. One cannot help casting his eyes over the spacious expanses about, the sweep is so magnificent.

There in the distance the sun silhouettes against the sky the stump which is left of the cloth-hall at Ypres. Farther over sparkle the spires of the new churches, of Vlamertinghe and Poperinghe, known to all Canadian soldiers. In between glimmers the mirroring surface of the lake at Zillebeke. Hill 60 and Saint Eloi farther round yet to the left and near to hand just allow a corner of the lake at Dickebusch to be glimpsed. Sweeping further round still to the left Wytschaete, a clump of red-tiled houses in the distance, marks the end of the Messines ridge and past it rises the lofty, rounded contours of Mount Kemmel against the horizon.

Then coming back again to Ypres and following the horizon round to the right one can discern St. Julien and Langemarck in the purple distance, with all the rolling country between, scattered over with tiny red-roofed hamlets like Wieltje and St. Jean. Passchendaele and Zonnebeke further on the right are cut off by the high ground behind Hooge, but to the rear can be seen Gheluvelt. Truly a magnificent sweep and one embracing a territory in scarcely any corner of which Canadians have not set foot and wrestled mightily with the foe.

The wind blows fresh and fragrant on the hill-top and one is loth to leave. It is an enchanting and picturesque spot for future pilgrimages. On the white coping arrows point in different directions, with the names of the historic villages and hills. That is designed for those who come in future years, who know the names, but have not dwelt among the places as have their soldier relatives. And all round lie on the slopes quiet little cemeteries where sleep many of those who fought to retain those hills and valleys. Maple Copse, Sanctuary Wood, Valley Cottages, Somer Farm, St. Eloi and scores of others dot the green fields with their little clumps of white stones.

Already the Belgians come of a Sunday in groups and parties to admire the site which the Canadians have chosen to bear witness immemorially to their gallant part in Flanders battles. From Ypres and Zillebeke and surrounding villages they come in hundreds.

ACTIONS OF ST. ELOI CRATERS AND BATTLE OF MOUNT SORREL

The fighting commemorated by the memorial on Hill 62 resulted from the determination to retain these last few miles of Belgian soil in the face of repeated German efforts to reduce the menace of the Salient at Ypres.

On the 27th of March, 1916, the British Division on the left of the Canadian Corps fired a series of mines under the German front line at St. Eloi, and made an attack on a front of 1,000 yards to secure the craters and to deprive the enemy of his commanding tactical position by establishing a line beyond; on 4th April the 2nd Canadian Division was called upon to relieve the exhausted troops in this sector. The bombardment was continuous on the narrow front; deep mud, cold rain and thick fog prevented effective consolidation; the Germans, by concentrating a large force of artillery on the restricted area, made the new position untenable and the original line was resumed.

The front of the Canadian Corps now extended northwards across the Ypres-Menin Road at Hooge; the trenches held by the 1st Canadian Division ran from the Comines Canal by Hill 60 and Armagh Wood to join the 3rd on the higher ground known as Observatory Ridge and Sanctuary Wood.

On the 2nd June, at 8 a.m., the enemy suddenly opened a heavy bombardment of the Canadian defences between the Comines railway and Hooge; for three hours there was an incessant rain of shells, then for another hour the shelling increased and the devastating tornado of fire continued to sweep the forward area until 1 p.m. By this time most of the front line and support trenches had been utterly destroyed, many of the defenders, including General Mercer, commanding the 3rd Canadian Division, had been killed, and few remained unwounded to meet the advance of the German infantry. Night fell before a new Canadian line could be established across the gap, for the flanks had held firm, but the Wurtemburgers were now in possession of the high ground commanding the southern part of the salient.

Counter-attacks next day met with no success; the initiative still lay with the Germans who, on the 6th of June, fired and occupied the craters of a series of mines under the Canadian front line at Hooge. Meanwhile plans had been developed to regain the lost ground; on the evening of the 12th, the guns began their work, and soon after midnight put down an intense bombardment which broke the enemy's resistance; the infantry assaulted at 1.30 a.m. and an hour later had regained the high ground and re-established the position.

THE BATTLES OF THE SOMME, 1916

When the Canadian Corps arrived from the North in the last week of August, the Battles of the Somme had been in progress two months. The French had advanced South of the River; the British had captured Montauban, Mametz, Fricourt, Contalmaison, Longueval and Ovillers. On the left, where the Canadians were destined to be engaged, the line ran along the Pozières Ridge and near Mouquet Farm, when it turned to pass South of Thiepval and westwards in the direction of Authuille.

The 1st Canadian Division was the first to enter the fight, and the troops came up through Albert on 30th August to take over the line from the Australians, then heavily engaged in an attempt to secure the Pozières Windmill and Mouquet Farm. For a week the 1st Canadian Division held the battered trenches along the height of land, while the 2nd and 3rd moved in through Warloy, Senlis and Bouzincourt to the Brickfields, northwest of Albert. Then the 3rd relieved the 1st, while the 2nd took over trenches astride the Bapaume Road preparatory to the Canadian Corps taking part in the left attack of the renewed British offensive now known as the Battle of Flers-Courcelette.

At half-past six on the morning of 15th September, the attack was launched by the 5th and 6th Brigades accompanied by Tanks which, emerging from the experimental stage and destined to become formidable engines of war, first made their appearance in battle. The British and Canadian batteries, massed in the valleys East and West of la Boisselle, provided covering fire. By ten o'clock the Sugar Factory on the Bapaume Road, a prominent and well fortified obstacle, had been captured with the lines of trenches on either flank. A decision was quickly taken that the attack should be pressed without delay, and orders were issued for the 7th Brigade to seize the rising ground on the left flank and for the 5th Brigade to take Courcelette. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon the advance began; the battalions swept down the slope, captured the village, and by nightfall were consolidating a line encircling it and extending on the right to join up with the British troops who had advanced into Martinpuich. For the next three days there was heavy fighting on this line; then the 1st relieved the 2nd in preparation for a new attack—this time in conjunction with British divisions on the left.

No operations in which Canadian troops took part, with the exception of the Battle of Passchendaele, were fought under more adverse conditions than those on the Somme. The undulating character of the country exposed the attacking troops on the forward slopes to the full

view of the enemy across the valleys, and made necessary an elaborate and intricate system of zig-zag approach trenches, saps and dugouts to secure some measure of cover. The surface of the ground was torn and almost all features had been obliterated by the incessant bombardment. The weather was uniformly wet and, when soaked with rain, the chalky sub-soil—always close to the surface—formed a species of mud remarkable for its glutinous consistency, adding materially to the hardships of men and horses and making transportation doubly difficult.

These conditions made frequent reliefs necessary; the infantry of each division, after a tour in the line, marched out to billets in the villages of Bouzincourt, Warloy-Baillon, Vadencourt, Toutencourt, Hérissart, Rubempré, le Val de Maison, la Vicogne, Bonneville, Montrelet, Fieffes, Halloy les Pernois, Berteaucourt les Dames, Pernois; the artillery, as usual, remained in action continuously.

Opposite the Canadian front was now a series of parallel trenches, running East and West, known as Zollern, Hessian and Kenora. These were captured after heavy fighting by the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions on the 26th and 27th September; meanwhile British divisions took Thiepval and straightened the line to the Ancre at Hamel.

On the 28th the 1st Canadian Division was relieved by the 3rd Canadian Division, and three days later the 2nd and 3rd attacked Regina Trench. The difficulty of observation made it impossible for the artillery, now concentrated about Pozières, to cut the wire defending this line, and the attack failed. On October 8th, the attack was renewed, this time by the 1st and 3rd Divisions; for a time all went well and Regina Trench was entered, but the losses were such that it could not be held in the face of heavy counter-attacks.

On the 17th October the Canadian Corps, with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Canadian Divisions, was withdrawn from the Somme and marched to the Vimy front. Meanwhile, on the 11th, the 4th Canadian Division had moved to the Somme and, attacking on the 21st and 25th October and on 12th November, advanced the line to within 1,000 yards of Pys. In the final assault on November 18th the 4th Canadian Division, attacking northwards in conjunction with British divisions on the left, captured Desire Trench; and when on the 28th it was withdrawn, the trenches ran in an irregular line westward from le Sars and 2,000 yards North of Courcelette.

The Canadian casualties in the Battles of the Somme were 24,029.

SOMME

(COURCELETTE.)

THE CANADIAN CORPS BORE A VALIANT PART IN
FORCING BACK THE GERMANS ON THESE SLOPES
DURING THE BATTLES OF THE SOMME SEPT. 3RD-
NOV. 18TH, 1916.

L'ARMÉE CANADIENNE PRIT UNE PART GLORIEUSE
A LA RUPTURE DU FRONT ALLEMAND SUR CES
COTES PENDANT LA BATAILLE DE LA SOMME
3 SEPT.-18 NOV. 1916

HONOUR TO CANADIANS WHO ON THE FIELDS OF
FLANDERS AND OF FRANCE FOUGHT IN THE CAUSE
OF THE ALLIES WITH SACRIFICE AND DEVOTION

(Inscription around base of stone)



VIMY

An illustration of the scale model of the Vimy Memorial appears as a frontispiece to this volume. The Memorial itself is about 200 feet square and rises to a height of about 125 feet. The symbolism of a work of art depends to some extent on the beholder. It can mean, or suggest, one thing to one person and another to another. The original description given by the artist, Mr. Allward, was:—

At the base of the strong impregnable walls of defence are the Defenders, one group showing the Breaking of the Sword, the other the Sympathy of the Canadians for the Helpless. Above these are the mouths of guns covered with olive and laurels. On the wall stands an heroic figure of Canada brooding over the graves of her valiant dead; below is suggested a grave with a helmet, laurels, etc. Behind her stand two pylons symbolizing the two forces—Canadian and French—while between, at the base of these, is the Spirit of Sacrifice who, giving all, throws the torch to his Comrade. Looking up they see the figures of Peace, Justice, Truth and Knowledge, etc., for which they fought, chanting the hymn of Peace. Around these figures are the shields of Britain, Canada and France. On the outside of the pylons is the Cross.

With reference to the two pylons, he had in mind the superb gallantry and great losses of the French in the Vimy region during the early part of the war. The ridge itself was eventually carried by the Canadians

but the ground, including the neighbouring slopes of Notre Dame de Lorette, was hallowed also by French blood poured out without stint. The monument was to be erected on French soil. Thus it appeared fitting that, although it was to be erected by Canada to commemorate the deeds of her own troops, it should also symbolise the exploits and sacrifices of our ally on whose soil it was to stand. In expression of this thought the pylons bear, on the one, the maple leaves of Canada and the Crown but, on the other, the Fleur de Lis of France and the laurel.

To many the pylons will suggest inevitably a gateway in which stands the spirit of Sacrifice — represented by a sculptured group. To these the gateway may seem the entrance to a fair country where prevail Justice, Truth and Knowledge and the other spiritual ideas expressed by the chanting figures above.

The significance of this memorial to Canadians was enhanced by the decision of the Canadian Government to inscribe on its walls the names of about 11,500 Canadians who are numbered among the "Missing," that is those known to be dead but having no known graves. The names of the Canadian "Missing" in Belgium, about 7,500 in number, are recorded in stone on the Memorial Arch at the Menin Gate, Ypres, and it was considered fitting that those who lost their lives in France, and whose graves are not recorded, should be commemorated on the Canadian memorial at Vimy, thus giving it an added meaning as a place of pilgrimage for Canadians.

THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

Early in 1917 the Canadian Corps, which formed the right flank of the First British Army, began preparations for the capture of Vimy Ridge. This was the most formidable position in Northern France and had been in the possession of the enemy since the first months of the war. It formed the pivot of the German defensive line, a bastion of great natural strength which had been enormously strengthened by an intricate system of defence works. The Ridge itself was honeycombed by dugouts and subterranean passages, the slopes seamed with trenches and wire entanglements, and these defences were still further elaborated by a number of fortified villages and strong points—Thélus, Farbus, La Folie Farm, Hill 145 and the Pimple—each a fortress in itself.

Between December, 1914, and November of the following year, the French forces, under Generals Foch and D'Urbal, made vigorous but only partially successful attempts to drive the Germans from these positions. Ablain St. Nazaire, Carency, Souchez, Neuville St. Vaast and the Labyrinth are names outstanding in the French annals of the war, and local names such as "Zouave Valley" and "Turco Trench" reminded the Canadians of the 50,000 gallant French soldiers who had been killed here in their country's service. Throughout this earlier fighting the Germans had displayed the utmost tenacity in their efforts to retain this vital position, but had not suffered as severely as the attacking French.

In general, the scheme was to bombard for two weeks or more the front of attack, which extended from Souchez to South of Arras on the Third Army front, carrying out a programme of systematic destruction of dugouts, rearward positions and forward trenches, while harassing all lines of communication within range with incessant shell and machine gun fire. The work of destruction completed, every known hostile battery would be neutralized by the fire of heavy guns and the attack would be launched, under a rolling barrage by the field artillery; the infantry, led by tanks wherever the nature of the ground permitted,

would follow this barrage, each unit being given the task of securing a definite part of the objective. The advance was to be made in depth; as each objective was secured, fresh troops, following close in rear of the attacking battalions, would pass through and the forward movement would continue until the final objective, the eastern slope of the ridge, was attained. Once captured, the Ridge would be held.

Hitherto rehearsals of an attack had been carried out in detail by platoons and companies, now they were executed by brigades and divisions; the rolling field artillery barrage had first been used at the Somme, but the idea of four divisions attacking abreast to a maximum depth of 4,000 yards, screened all the way by a curtain of bursting shrapnel, would have been scouted six months before; tanks had been employed in the Somme Battle, but there they were few in number and had no very definite part in the general scheme, and whereas the policy of following up the infantry attack by pushing forward machine-guns and artillery to cover the consolidation of objectives in a trench to trench attack had been generally recognized as sound, it yet had to be proved in practice.

During the previous eighteen months of position warfare, elaborate mining and counter-mining had been carried out by the opposing forces, for here the soft chalk lay but a few feet below the surface and offered an excellent opportunity for mining operations, so that the front line was punctuated by a series of craters, varying in size, but all covered by wire entanglements and worked into the general scheme of defence. Special tunnelling preparations had been made for the attack on the Canadian front. Eleven subways were constructed to facilitate the passage of the attacking troops through the area exposed to the heaviest concentrations of the enemy's guns; they also accommodated Headquarters, ammunition stores, dressing stations and communications, and provided a safe place for the assembly of the battalions taking part in the later stages.

CANADIAN BATTLEFIELD MEMORIALS

At the time of the attack the Canadian Corps held a frontage of 7,000 yards, extending from the Arras-Lens Road at a point 1,000 yards northeast of Ecurie Church, to a point 1,200 yards south of the Souchez River and 1,000 yards west of the village of Givenchy-en-Gohelle.

The four Canadian divisions—from right to left the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th—were in the line, each upon its own battle-front. In addition the 5th (British) Division had been placed at the disposal of the Corps, and of this division, the 13th (British) Brigade was under the orders of the 2nd Canadian Division in the attack, while the 15th and 95th (British) Brigades were in the Corps Reserve.

On the Canadian front the objectives were four in number, each marking a successive stage in the operation and co-ordinated with the plan of the adjoining Corps to the south. The first included the German front and support lines; the second marked a pause in the rolling barrage on the right, on the left it ran along the crest of the Ridge from La Folie Farm northwards and was there the final objective for the day. On the right, the third objective included Thélus village and mill, and the guns in Goulot Wood; the fourth and final objective marked the lower eastern

slopes of the Ridge. By the morning of the 9th of April the bombardment had accomplished its work of destruction, the rolling barrage opened, and at 5.30 a.m. the attacking waves of the four Canadian divisions swept forward abreast.

With astounding precision one objective after another was secured; by noon the Ridge was won.

In the subsequent fighting the villages of Farbus, Willerval, Vimy, Givenchy and Arleux were captured; on the 3rd of May the 1st Canadian Division stormed Fresnoy; in June the 4th Canadian Division pressed on south of the Souchez and took Avion.

In July the Canadian Corps extended to the left, opposite Loos, and on 15th August the 1st, 2nd and 4th Canadian Divisions, attacking under a barrage, drove the enemy from Hill 70 and forced him back into Lens. Repeated and violent attacks to recapture the hill were beaten off with heavy loss to the enemy, consolidation of the captured area was speedily carried out, and a dominating position was secured which rendered his hold on the eastern remnant of the town a precarious and costly necessity.

THE GIFT OF FRANCE TO CANADA OF LAND ON VIMY RIDGE

By "The Times," London, England, Paris Correspondent

"The design called imperatively for space. How was the ground for this purpose to be secured? The *bornes* had been demolished. The red havoc had swept away proprietorial demarcations. The earth had been churned and the landmarks razed. Where were the owners?

"Then it was that the French Government made its *beau geste*. It decided to associate itself fully with those Canadians who sought to commemorate the courage of their compatriots in the great struggle for civilization. It took upon itself the entire responsibility, and, at one swoop, surrendered to the Canadian authorities 250 acres of this land which

is saturated and ablaze with the Canadian spirit. Thus did Vimy Ridge become in the legal as well as the spiritual sense territory that is Canadian.

"When we are disposed to cavil with each other—we of England and we of France—let us think of Vimy Ridge, that hallowed legendary ground where French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians, men of our two tongues and of our two countries, fought with us both in the common cause. It is in no trivial but in the greatest sense that Vimy Ridge, the symbol of unity, the sign of solidarity, will stand up as a portent of fellowship against the sky."



SUB-STRUCTURE OF VIMY MEMORIAL
AT EARLY STAGES OF
CONSTRUCTION



DESCRIPTION OF GRANGE TUNNEL AND RECONSTRUCTED TRENCHES, VIMY RIDGE

By "The Daily Express", London, England, Special Correspondent, October 1928

Thousands of former soldiers are visiting the battlefields of France and Belgium in the hope of finding trenches, dug-outs, or the exact spot where they received their "blighties."

In the Ypres Salient they see nothing but flourishing fields of corn, flax, oats, and barley. There is not a trench left in Belgium except a few doubtful examples on Hill 60.

In France the scars of war are more visible, but a strenuous peasantry has filled the shell holes and has rebuilt its farms on the front line. It is amazing how swiftly the plough and the building contractor have wiped out all traces of war.

I found today the only spot in France where a man can feel that he is back again in 1914-1918; where he can stand at a sniper's post and fit the rotted butt of a rusted rifle to his shoulder as he peeps out between the bushes towards the German trenches. The wire is still up in "No Man's Land," duck-boards lie in the trenches, officers' beds, rotting and collapsed, still lie in the chalk dugouts.

Hundreds of names and many messages are written on the chalk in indelible pencil, as fresh as when they were written ten years ago. Mills bombs with the pins in them repose on ledges, cans of bully beef, tin hats—all the familiar debris of those sad days—are to be seen as they were left.

This amazing spot is the famous Grange Tunnel, on Vimy Ridge, which has just been opened up by the Canadian Battlefields Memorials Commission. It is to be preserved for the benefit of posterity as a kind of textbook on trench warfare, and is destined to become the most remarkable relic of the war.

General Pershing visited it three days ago, and said that it was the only living war memorial in France. Every soldier who has seen it wonders why no one ever before thought of preserving a section of the front line.

The project began a year ago as a side-line to the Canadian memorial on Vimy Ridge, which will not be completed until 1931. The stone for this stupendous shrine comes from the ancient Roman quarries round

the Bay of Spalato in Dalmatia. While waiting for supplies of this stone to arrive, it occurred to the Canadian engineers that it might be interesting to try to locate the famous Grange Labyrinth—the miles of underground passages which the Canadians pushed out to within a few yards of the enemy's lines.

Map references were taken, and the entrance to the tunnel was discovered choked up with brushwood. The work of clearing the tunnel has taken a year and it is not yet completed.

So interesting were the discoveries that the commission decided to rebuild the trenches, preserve the dugouts, and make the Grange Tunnel a permanent sight. The trenches have been lined with concrete sandbags. The concrete is poured in wet, so that when the sandbags rot the marks of the mesh will remain; the duck-boards have been cast in concrete, all wood has been taken out of the dugouts, and the passages have been reinforced with concrete and metal. The Grange Tunnel has at least a century of life before it. I was shown around the tunnel by Captain Unwin Simson, Royal Canadian Engineers.

On the way down is a notice: "These walls are sacred to the names of soldiers who inscribed them during their occupation in the war of 1914-1918. Please omit yours."

We entered a dark tunnel and found ourselves in a labyrinth of passages, dug-outs and battalion headquarters cut far below the ground-level in the white chalk of Vimy Ridge. It was as though we had been switched back to April, 1917—that time when the Canadian divisions advanced to the conquest of Vimy Ridge. Nothing had changed.

The smoke from the candles once set in niches to light the passages was still black on the chalk. The dug-outs and the walls of the communicating passages were covered with names carved in the chalk or written in pencil and as legible as when they were inscribed during the great battle of Arras. The maple leaf of Canada was carved with an

CANADIAN BATTLEFIELD MEMORIALS

original variety in a hundred different places, and on the walls I read at random such inscriptions as these:—

103234. James Burton, A Company, the Royal Canadian Regiment, May 8, 1917. Still alive and kicking.

670080. W. J. Auchincloss, A Company, Royal Canadian Regiment, May 8, 1917. Untouched by whizzbangs as yet.

I cannot describe the feelings with which a man in these days approaches the inscriptions written below the earth of the Arras sector. In their cheery naiveté we, who have survived and can look back on 1917 with the calm unconcern of historians, seem to touch hands once more with these Canadian boys who, ten years ago, crouched in these chalk dug-outs, still "alive and kicking," still "untouched by whizzbangs," joking, laughing, waiting, quite unconscious that they were carving not only their names, but also history.

We walked for about half a mile, going deeper into Grange subway, until we came to battalion headquarters. On the wall of a dark, damp chalk chamber, which had been used as an officers' mess during the Canadian advance on Vimy, were carved the following names:—

Major McCaghey, Major Collins, Lieutenant Abbott, Lieutenant Jamieson, Lieutenant H. Cook, May 10, 1917, 52 Battalion Canadian B. Company.

In a little carved shield were the words, "Dick Swift."

We stood there, lighting matches in the dark, wondering what had happened to these men, wondering whether they still live somewhere at home in Canada, or whether they fell on Vimy Ridge. No matter whether they are alive or dead, their personalities live beneath the soil of France so vividly that one expects to meet them round the next corner.

While we were going on towards Mine Shaft, which the Canadians drove beneath the enemy lines, my foot kicked a small object. It was a tin of bully beef! It had been opened, but it had not been eaten, and it was ten years old! I leave to the imagination of any man who knows what bully beef was like when comparatively young to judge how this specimen looked and smelt.

"See this?" said Captain Simson, holding up a queer grey slab. It was gun cotton, stamped 1916.

"Down there, about 100 feet below our present level," he said, "we found a dump of Mills bombs and also sacks of T.N.T. We have removed them reverently."

In the amazing collection of names written on the walls I came across two which roused my curiosity. They were:—

Ship No. 7,129, 1st Section, 7th Division, U.S.M.C., Texas Leather Neck Corps.

Ship No. 3,112 G.M., 2nd Class, 3rd Division, Flagship, U.S.S., Saratoga, Asiatic Fleet.

What on earth were these two American sailors doing with the Canadian armies on Vimy Ridge? How did they get there? Were they deserters from the American Navy who, becoming weary of America's indecision, had joined up with the Canadians? Or were they shipwrecked mariners who had gone to Vimy in search of life?

I prophesy that books will some day be written about Grange Tunnel and the names which it perpetuates. The Canadian Battlefields Memorials Commission has carved, perhaps unwittingly, a greater memorial even than that expensive shrine which the Canadian Government is now building on the crest of Vimy Ridge.

Here in this dark tunnel, and here only, do we seem to meet the men who fought and died. Here only do we seem to see again in the long chalk passages those well-known faces; here only can we read their signatures—no doubt in many cases their last written words—written with the indelible pencils with which they wrote their letters home.

Canada has, with splendid and characteristic foresight, carved a shrine which is sacred not only to her army, but also to all the Allies. Here British, French and Belgians will gather in years to come and say: "This is how our men lived during the great war." The Grange Tunnel is, and always will be, the greatest and most touching sight on the western front.

During the early months of 1917 eleven large subways were constructed to aid the concentration of the Canadian troops for the attack on Vimy Ridge. The largest was the Grange Tunnel, which had three exits for the troops, and constant streams of men, wounded and unwounded, passed through it during the battle. Its minimum depth was twenty-five feet, it had electric light and a water supply, and there were numerous dugouts, dressing stations, and ammunition dumps.



RECONSTRUCTED TRENCHES, VIMY RIDGE



THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE

The Flanders offensive of 1917 had been resumed on 31st July; Bixschoote, Pilckem, Frezenberg, Hooge and Klein Zillebeke had fallen in the first assault; on the 3rd August St. Julien had been captured, and on the 16th, Langemarck. The struggle in the mud and rain continued throughout September. By the 4th October the line ran through Poelcappelle and included Gravenstafel, Broodseinde and Polderhoek Chateau. The continuance of the offensive, after this satisfactory line had been reached, was imposed upon the British Armies by the necessity for keeping the German forces occupied on the Western front. This need arose chiefly from the weakness of our European Allies and from the inability of the United States as yet to give any assistance on land.

The task allotted to the Canadian Corps was the capture of the eminence known as Passchendaele Ridge, running north and south on the eastern extremity of the new salient in front of Ypres, which had developed as the result of the fighting since the 31st July.

On 10th October, orders were received for the transfer of the Canadian Corps from the Lens-Vimy to the Ypres front; two days later the 3rd and 4th Canadian Divisions moved north, to be followed shortly by the 1st and 2nd.

The Canadian Corps took over the trenches running northwards from Broodseinde to near Wallemolen, and the 3rd and 4th Canadian Divisions went into line ready to resume the offensive on the 26th. The attack was to be delivered on the front between the Ypres-Roulers railway and Poelcappelle, up the slopes of the spurs leading to Passchendaele, and the Canadian Corps would assault in the centre on a frontage of 2,800 yards.

The artillery and engineers at once began to get ready for the projected attack; new battery positions were prepared, plank roads and tracks were pushed forward with all possible speed. Owing to the shell fire, horse lines were kept west of Ypres, and, as traffic in the Corps area

was necessarily confined to two roads, the maintenance of supplies presented almost insuperable difficulties.

The whole undertaking was difficult in the extreme; the prolonged wet weather, coupled with heavy and incessant shell fire, had converted the whole area into a featureless muddy swamp, often impassable for infantry in battle order and seldom offering adequate foundation for defence works, gun platforms or roads. To quote the description of the Commander-in-Chief: "The low-lying clayey soil, torn by shells and sodden with rain, turned to a succession of vast muddy pools. The valleys of the choked and overflowing streams were speedily transformed into long stretches of bog, impassable except by a few well-defined tracks, which became marks for the enemy's artillery. To leave these tracks was to risk death by drowning, and in the course of the operations on several occasions both men and pack animals were lost in this way." The German system of inter-supporting concrete machine-gun emplacements, then known as pill-boxes, together with the fact that there could be no element of surprise, and that the massed hostile artillery could be effectively used on the narrow front of attack, further added to the natural strength of the position to be assaulted.

At 5.40 a.m. on the 26th October, the Canadian Corps advanced under a heavy barrage. The order of battle was as follows: The 4th Canadian Division on the right of the Ravebeek; the 3rd Canadian Division on the left; the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division on the left of the Canadians, the 1st Australian Division on the right.

The 4th Canadian Division advanced with great success, securing and consolidating all objectives. Two severe counter-attacks were beaten off, but in the afternoon the increased intensity of the enemy's artillery fire caused a slight withdrawal on the right. The 3rd Canadian Division did not at first meet with the same success, encountering severe opposition and very heavy machine-gun fire from the pill-boxes on the

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road crossing the top of Bellevue Spur. In consequence, the right was for the most part forced back on the jumping-off line. The left of the attack got well ahead, but both flanks were for a time in a precarious position. The 3rd Canadian Division, therefore, reinforced their line and in a second attack early in the afternoon succeeded in capturing Lamkeek and the commanding pill-boxes on Bellevue Spur, a line being established about fifty yards beyond the crest.

The successes of the day were important, for the line had been advanced to within striking distance of Passchendaele Village crowning the ridge. The new positions were consolidated, counter-attacks were driven off, minor adjustments of the line were made, and general preparations completed for the next stage in the operations.

Early on 30th October the attack was resumed when the 3rd and 4th Canadian Divisions advanced on Passchendaele in face of a terrific concentration of artillery and machine-gun fire. The 4th Canadian Division gained all their objectives, including Crest Farm, a point of great tactical importance, where desperate resistance was encountered. The advance was materially assisted by the fire of machine-guns, captured at this farm. The 3rd Canadian Division again had heavy opposition to overcome, but captured Meetcheele Crest, the spur west of Passchendaele; on their left the division had to conform to the 63rd (R.N.) Division, which was again held up by impassable ground and machine-gun fire.

Five counter-attacks were launched against the Canadian front; all were beaten off. Casualties were severe, but the ground captured was important to the next stage of the operations, and the gains of the day were consolidated in preparation for the attack and capture of Passchendaele itself.

Early in the morning of 2nd November, the 3rd Canadian Division captured Vanity House with little opposition; the simultaneous attack on Vine Cottage was repulsed. On the night 2nd-3rd November, Graf House was attacked and occupied, but a counter-attack necessitated a withdrawal of our line at this point.

At 11 a.m. on the 4th November, the G.O.C. 2nd Canadian Division took over command of the right sector from the G.O.C. 4th Canadian Division; on the same date the relief of the 3rd by the 1st Canadian Division began.

The attack was resumed on a narrower front at 6 a.m. on the 6th November by the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions, in conjunction with the 1st British Division on the left. The 1st Canadian Division captured a number of pill-boxes and, pressing on, overcame all resistance and took Mosselmarkt. By 10.50 a.m. the attacking troops had reached the final objective, the high ground north and northwest of Passchendaele, and were actively consolidating. The 2nd Canadian Division made a brilliant attack against Passchendaele, and, in spite of severe fighting around the pill-boxes at the north end of the village, this stronghold was captured. By 8.45 a.m. all objectives had been secured and a defensive line was being organized beyond the crest. Later in the day a heavy counter-attack was beaten off and others were anticipated and prevented by effective artillery fire on troops in assembly positions.

On the 10th November a combined movement for the capture of further ground on the main ridge was successfully carried out in co-operation with the XI British Corps on the left.

These operations brought to a close the Third Battle of Ypres, and in the words of the Commander-in-Chief: "for the second time within the year Canadian troops achieved a record of uninterrupted success." The later stages of the battle had been fought in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties, which only the heroic endurance of the troops had overcome. The successive attacks, each one of which was an independent and precisely co-ordinated effort, attained their limited objectives and yielded 1,200 prisoners, but, as with the actions in the Somme operations fourteen months before, the real gain was in the lowering of the enemy's morale and in the reduction of his fighting power.

Beginning on the 13th November the Canadian Divisions were gradually relieved, and on the 20th the G.O.C., Canadian Corps, resumed command of the former Lens-Vimy front.

PASSCHENDAELE

THE CANADIAN CORPS IN OCT.-NOV. 1917 ADVANCED ACROSS
THIS VALLEY—THEN A TREACHEROUS MORASS—CAPTURED
AND HELD THE PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE.

APRES AVOIR FRANCHI SOUS UN FEU MEURTRIER LA REDOU-
TABLE FONDRIERE QU'ETAIT ALORS CE VALLON, L'ARMEE
CANADIENNE S'EMPARE DE CETTE CRETE ET S'Y MAINTINT
OCTOBRE-NOVEMBRE 1917.



THE BATTLE OF AMIENS

On the afternoon of the 20th July, 1918, the Canadian Corps Commander was informed that the Commander-in-Chief proposed to use the Canadian Corps in an operation, the object of which was the freeing of the Amiens-Paris railway. This operation was to have been of limited scope, but on July 26th it was enlarged, and the First French Army was to co-operate and be responsible for the right flank of the attack. On the 27th the general boundaries for the first day were fixed. Units were to leave their areas without knowledge of their destinations, and it was given out freely that the Canadian Corps would move to the Ypres Sector where a German attack was expected. To deceive the enemy, two battalions moved up to the Kemmel area, near Ypres, and electric signal messages were transmitted in an easily decipherable code.

On July 29th, the XVII Corps received orders to relieve the Canadian Corps before the 2nd of August. On the same day the Divisional Commanders were informed of the contemplated operations, and instructions were given not to discuss them with subordinate commanders. The secrecy desired was obtained, and all the moves from the Arras area to the Amiens area were successfully accomplished.

Fortunately the weather was unfavourable for flying operations and the abnormal traffic remained undetected by the Germans. With a view to drowning the noise of the tank engines, large bombing planes flew over the area while the tanks were moved up into position. The greater part of the forward area consisted of bare slopes exposed to enemy observation; all sorts of expedients were resorted to, and thanks to the energy, discipline, and untiring efforts of all ranks, the difficulties encountered were overcome.

The hostile defences consisted of unconnected elements of trenches, and a vast number of machine-gun posts formed a fairly loose but very deep pattern; to deal with these and cover the attack, seventeen brigades of field artillery, nine brigades of heavy guns, and four batteries of long-range guns, were brought into action by the Corps.

As the Canadian Corps was the spearhead of the attack, all the movements on the flanks were to be synchronized with ours. On the right, the 3rd Canadian Division was in liaison with the French First Army; in the centre was the 1st Canadian Division; on the left, the 2nd Canadian Division, in liaison with the Australian Corps; in reserve, the 4th Canadian Division, ready to take up the fight from the 3rd, after the first heights were won.

At 4.20 a.m. on August 8th, the assault was delivered on the Fourth Army front of attack, and the First French Army opened their bombardment. The attack made satisfactory progress from the outset. By the afternoon the Canadian Corps had gained all its objectives, except a few hundred yards on the right in the vicinity of Le Quesnel where resistance was put up by unexpected reserves, but the ground was made good the following morning.

The surprise had been complete and overwhelming. Prisoners said they had no idea an attack was impending; captured documents indicated that all preparations had remained undetected, and an officer stated that the Canadians were generally believed to be on the Kemmel front. The day's operations, in which all four Canadian Divisions and the Canadian Cavalry Brigade took part, represented a penetration of the enemy's defences of over eight miles. The villages and towns captured included: Hangard, Demuin, Beaucourt, Aubercourt, Courcelles, Ignaucourt, Cayeux, Caix, Marcelcave, Wiencourt l'Equippée and Guillaucourt, and in addition to this the Corps assisted the French in the capture of Mezières, which was holding up their advance.

On the following day, the 9th, the advance was continued with the 3rd, 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions in the line; the 4th Canadian Division being held in corps reserve. Substantial progress was made and by evening a gain of from four to six and a half miles was the result. The following additional villages were captured: Le Quesnel, Folies, Bouchoir, Beaufort, Warvillers, Rouvroy, Vrély, Méharicourt and

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Rosières, and the 3rd Canadian Division co-operated with the French in the capture of Arvillers.

During the day the enemy's resistance stiffened considerably, and whatever gains were made resulted from heavy infantry fighting with a few tanks in support, against fresh troops. The advance had penetrated into the area of the trenches of the Somme operations of 1916, and these, though not in good repair, lent themselves readily to a stubborn machine-gun defence.

On the 10th August the attack was continued with the 4th Canadian Division on the left and the 3rd Canadian Division on the right; the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions going into reserve. After the 3rd Canadian Division had taken the village of le Quesnoy en Santerre the 32nd British Division, which had come under the Canadian Corps on the night of the 9th-10th, passed through the 3rd Canadian Division and advanced the line through the maze of old trenches west of Parvillers and Damery. The 4th Canadian Division succeeded, after a day of hard fighting, in occupying Fouquescourt, Maucourt, Chilly and Hallu.

During the night, 10th-11th, a strong enemy counter-attack developed against the 4th Canadian Division's front east of Hallu; this counter-attack was beaten off with great loss to the enemy. On the 11th, at 9.30 a.m., the 32nd British Division attacked Damery but were not successful. The 4th Canadian Division reduced the Chilly salient, and during the night of the 11th-12th, the 32nd Division and the 4th Canadian Division were relieved by the 3rd and 2nd Canadian Divisions respectively.

Strong enemy reserves had by now been sent forward to stem our advance; six fresh divisions had been brought in and, covered by a large number of light and heavy batteries, were fighting hard and well in a strongly-entrenched defensive position. The 12th, 13th and 14th were chiefly occupied in trench fighting of a more local character. The 3rd

Canadian Division cleared the network of trenches and advanced the line to the western extremity of Parvillers and Damery, which were captured on the 15th and held in spite of heavy fire and severe counter-attacks. Bois de Damery was also taken and this enabled the French to capture the Bois en Z which commanded the road to Roye.

On the night of the 15th-16th, the 1st Canadian Division relieved the 3rd, which was withdrawn to Corps Reserve. Progress was made on the 16th-17th, the enemy being driven out of Fransart and la Chavatte. The 4th Canadian Division relieved the 2nd Canadian Division which was withdrawn to Corps Reserve. The 18th was quiet along the front, but on the 19th the 4th Canadian Division greatly improved the line in the neighbourhood of Chilly, and four counter-attacks to recover the lost ground were beaten off during the night. On the 19th the relief of the Canadian Corps commenced and was completed on the 22nd.

Between August 8th and August 22nd, the Canadian Corps of four divisions fought against fifteen German divisions; of these ten were directly engaged and thoroughly defeated, prisoners being captured from every one of their battalions. The five other divisions fighting astride the flanks were only partially engaged by the Canadian Corps. In this period the Corps captured 9,131 prisoners, 190 guns of all calibres, and more than a thousand machine guns and trench mortars. The greatest depth penetrated approximated to 14 miles, and an area of over 67 square miles had been liberated by the Corps.

The casualties suffered by the Canadian Corps in the fourteen days' fighting amounted to: officers 579, and other ranks, 10,783. Considering the number of German divisions engaged, and the results achieved, these casualties were very light.

Before the Canadian Corps had been fully relieved in the Somme area, it had already begun the Battle of Arras-Cambrai in the North.

LE QUESNEL

THE CANADIAN CORPS ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND
STRONG ON 8TH AUGUST 1918 ATTACKED BETWEEN
HOURGES AND VILLERS-BRETONNEUX AND DROVE
THE ENEMY EASTWARD FOR EIGHT MILES.

L'ARMEE CANADIENNE, FORTE DE 100,000 HOMMES,
ATTAQUA L'ENNEMI LE 8 AOUT 1918 ENTRE HOURGES
ET VILLERS-BRETONNEUX ET LE REJETA VERS L'EST
SUR UNE PROFONDEUR DE TREIZE KILOMETRES.

HONOUR TO CANADIANS WHO ON THE FIELDS OF
FLANDERS AND OF FRANCE FOUGHT IN THE CAUSE
OF THE ALLIES WITH SACRIFICE AND DEVOTION

(Inscription around base of stone)



DURY

THE CANADIAN CORPS 100,000 STRONG ATTACKED AT ARRAS ON AUGUST 26TH 1918, STORMED SUCCESSIVE GERMAN LINES AND HERE ON SEPT. 2ND BROKE AND TURNED THE MAIN GERMAN POSITION ON THE WESTERN FRONT AND REACHED THE CANAL DU NORD.

L'ARMEE CANADIENNE ATTAQUA L'ENNEMI A ARRAS LE 26 AOUT 1918, ENFONÇA SUCCESSIVEMENT TOUTES LES POSITIONS ALLEMANDES, PUIS, LE 2 SEPTEMBRE, BRISA ICI MEME LA FAMEUSE LIGNE QUEANT-DROCOURT, REPUTEE IMPRENABLE, ET AVANÇA JUSQU'AU CANAL DU NORD.

HONOUR TO CANADIANS WHO ON THE FIELDS OF FLANDERS AND OF FRANCE FOUGHT IN THE CAUSE OF THE ALLIES WITH SACRIFICE AND DEVOTION.

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HONOUR TO CANADIANS WHO CONTINUED



DURY MEMORIAL SITE



THE SECOND BATTLES OF ARRAS, 1918

(1) Battle of the Scarpe. (2) Battle of the Drocourt-Quéant Line.

On August 22nd, the scheme of operations for the taking and breaking of the Hindenburg Line was communicated to the Corps Commander.

The Canadian Corps, on the right of the First Army, was to attack eastwards astride the Arras-Cambrai road and, by forcing its way through the Drocourt-Quéant line, to break the hinge of the Hindenburg System and prevent the possibility of the enemy rallying behind this powerfully organized area of defence. It was decided that the attack should take place on Monday, the 26th.

The ground was familiar to the Canadian Corps; trench railways and administrative arrangements were all of their devising when holding the sector during the early summer, and the excellence of the work now enabled the Corps to undertake, in the words of its Commander, "the hardest battle in its history." Flushed with the great victory they had just won at Amiens, all ranks were ready for the coming task.

The ground lent itself to defence; a succession of ridges, rivers and canals formed natural lines of great strength, often mutually supporting, and these had been strongly fortified. The four main systems of defence were: the old German front line system, east of Monchy le Preux; the Fresnes-Rouvroy Lines; the Drocourt-Quéant Line (Hindenburg Line), and the Canal du Nord Line. These, with their subsidiary switches and strong points and a number of intermediate lines, gave the series of positions to be attacked great defensive strength. There could be no element of surprise; the positions formed the pivot for the movement of the German armies to the south, and the security of the armies to the north also depended on the retention of this part of the system.

The objectives of the attack on the 26th August were as follows: The 2nd Canadian Division was to capture Chapel Hill, working thence south to Wancourt spur, encircling the enemy towards Neuville Vitasse, and at the same time it was to push forward astride the Arras-Cambrai

road. The 3rd Canadian Division, with its left on the Scarpe, was first to capture Orange Hill, then Monchy le Preux, and, assisted by the 51st (Highland) Division north of the Scarpe, to exploit any success as far east as possible.

On August 26th, at 3 a.m., the attack was launched with the usual artillery and machine-gun barrages. It made good progress; the village of Monchy le Preux was entered early in the day, after a brilliant encircling attack, and the trenches to the east were cleared before noon. Guemappe was captured by 4 p.m., and Wancourt Tower and the Heninel Ridge by 10.40 p.m. The enemy fought strenuously and several determined counter-attacks were repulsed. Three German divisions were identified, and many guns and machine-guns were captured together with over 2,000 prisoners. The roads and the light railways, which had been delivering a daily average of 1,800 tons almost to the front line, were pushed up by the Canadian Engineers, closely following the advance.

The attack was renewed at 4.55 a.m. on August 27th, by the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Divisions, in the face of increased resistance, under a uniformly good barrage. The 2nd Canadian Division broke through the old German trench system, where stiff hand-to-hand fighting took place; they crossed the Sensée River, after capturing the village of Cherisy, and joined up with the 3rd Canadian Division in Vis-en-Artois. The latter division also encountered determined opposition, but succeeded in taking Bois du Vert, Bois du Sart, and in reaching the western outskirts of Haucourt, Remy, Boiry-Notre-Dame and Pelves.

At 9 on the morning of the 28th, the 3rd Canadian Division on the left resumed the attack, followed on the right at 12.30 p.m. by the 2nd Canadian Division. The objective was the Fresnes-Rouvroy Lines. The 3rd Canadian Division pushed forward and captured the Fresnes-Rouvroy trenches from the Sensée River to the north of Boiry-Notre-

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Dame, and secured that village, Jigsaw Wood, and entered Pelves, but were held up in front of Haucourt. On the front of the 2nd Canadian Division the fighting was also severe; the troops were subjected to heavy machine-gun fire from both flanks as well as frontally, and suffered correspondingly heavy casualties.

Following the capture of Monchy le Preux, the enemy's resistance had been steadily increasing, and it became clear that the Drocourt-Quéant Line would be most stubbornly defended. The infantry of the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Divisions were now exhausted, and were relieved on the night of the 28th-29th by the 1st Canadian Division on the right and the 4th (British) on the left; the heavy artillery concentrated on the cutting of wire in front of the Drocourt-Quéant Line; the engineers prepared the bridges required for crossing the Canal du Nord and the Sensée River. The 29th was devoted to minor operations.

On the 30th the 1st Canadian Division attacked the Vis-en-Artois switch, Upton Wood and the Fresnes-Rouvroy Lines south of the Vis-en-Artois switch. The assaulting 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade captured all objectives, and the entire garrisons were killed or taken prisoner. Heavy counter-attacks were repulsed during the afternoon and the following night. On the 31st the remainder of the Fresnes-Rouvroy trenches, south of the Arras-Cambrai road, including Ocean Work, was captured by the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade.

In the meantime the 4th (British) Division had crossed the Sensée River and captured Haucourt, Remy and Eterpigny. The fighting was heavy and St. Servins Farm, after changing hands several times, remained in possession of the enemy until September 2nd. On the night of 31st August the 4th Canadian Division took over most of the 4th (British) Division frontage. Next day the Crow's Nest was captured by the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade, and a jumping-off line secured for the assault on the Drocourt-Quéant Line, in spite of violent counter-attacks by four German divisions on the 1st and 4th Canadian Divisions.

Hand-to-hand fighting continued until 5 a.m. on the 2nd, when the Corps attacked the Drocourt-Quéant Line, the advancing waves as they moved forward taking over the fight from the troops already engaged.

Preceded by a dense barrage and assisted by tanks, they pushed forward rapidly, and the Drocourt-Quéant Line and its support line (the first and second objectives), including the village of Dury, were taken. With the capture of the second objective the artillery barrage was shot out, and further attacks had to be carried forward without its assistance. The enemy's defence, freed from the effect of the barrage, quickly stiffened; intense machine-gun fire and field guns firing point-blank soon knocked out the tanks, and the advance on the left and the centre was held up. On the right, however, the 1st Canadian Division pushed forward despite heavy machine-gun and direct artillery fire, and captured the villages of Cagnicourt, Villers lez Cagnicourt, the Bois de Bouche and the Bois de Loison.

Taking advantage of the breach thus made by the Canadian Corps, the 63rd (R.N.) Division, which had followed behind the right of the 1st Canadian Division, covered the southern flank by advancing in the direction of Quéant. In the afternoon the 1st Canadian Division captured the heavily wired Buissy Switch Line as far south as Buissy, thereby outflanking the enemy, who were holding up the 4th Canadian Division, and compelling their retirement during the night behind the Canal du Nord.

The results of the day's fighting were most gratifying. The Canadian Corps had pierced the Drocourt-Quéant Line on its whole front of attack, thus making possible the exploitation of success by the XVII Corps to the south. To hold this key position the enemy had concentrated eight fresh divisions directly opposite the Canadian Corps; 5,000 prisoners were taken from these eight divisions; the infantry had penetrated the enemy's defences to a distance of 6,000 yards. At dawn on the 3rd patrols pushed forward; the villages of Buissy, Baralle, Saudemont, Rumaucourt, Ecourt St. Quentin and Lécluse were occupied and a line was established just west of the Canal du Nord along the Corps front.

On the night of September 3rd-4th, the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Divisions relieved the 1st and 4th Canadian Divisions in the line, and the first phase of the Arras-Cambrai fighting was at an end.

BOURLON WOOD

THE CANADIAN CORPS ON 27TH SEPT. 1918 FORCED
THE CANAL DU NORD AND CAPTURED THIS HILL.
THEY TOOK CAMBRAI, DENAIN, VALENCIENNES AND
MONS; THEN MARCHED TO THE RHINE WITH THE
VICTORIOUS ALLIES.

LE 27 SEPT. 1918 L'ARMEE CANADIENNE FRANCHIT LE
CANAL DU NORD ET CONQUIT CETTE HAUTEUR. ELLE
PRIT CAMBRAI, DENAIN, VALENCIENNES ET MONS;
PUIS AVANÇA JUSQU'AU RHIN AVEC LES ALLIES
VICTORIEUX.

LE 27 SEPT 1918 L'ARMÉE
CANADIENNE FRANCHIT
LE CANAL DU NORD ET
CONQUIT CETTE HAUTEUR
3 BELLE PRIE CAMBRAI,
DENAIN, VALENCIENNES
ET MONS; PUIS AVANÇA
JUSQU'AU RHIN AVEC LES
ALLIÉS VICTORIEUX 3 3

FOUGHT IN THE CAUSE OF THE ALLIES

BOURLON WOOD MEMORIAL SITE

Inscription on a tablet set in wall:

CE MONUMENT A ETE ERIGE SUR UN TERRAIN QUI A
ETE DONNE PAR LE COMTE DE FRANCQUEVILLE AU
GOUVERNEMENT CANADIEN.

THIS MONUMENT HAS BEEN ERECTED ON SOIL
DONATED BY THE COUNT DE FRANCQUEVILLE TO
THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.



THE BATTLES OF THE HINDENBURG LINE

(1) Battle of the Canal du Nord. (2) Battle of Cambrai.

During the pause necessitated by the enemy's fresh stand at the Canal du Nord, preparations were made for the resumption of operations and advantage was taken of the opportunity to rest and refit divisions.

On September 15th details were received of a large operation by the Third and Fourth Armies, in which the Canadian Corps was to co-operate by crossing the Canal and capturing Bourlon Wood and the high ground to the northeast of it, thus ensuring the left flank. By a side slip to the south, the right of the Canadian Corps was to be placed opposite a dry portion of the Canal du Nord on a front of about 2,500 yards, where the Germans also held a strip of ground on the west bank.

On September 22nd the task of the Canadian Corps was enlarged to include the capture of the bridges over the Canal de l'Escaut, north of Cambrai, and the high ground overlooking the Sensee Valley. The 1st and 4th Canadian Divisions were to carry out the initial attack, capturing Marquion and Bourlon respectively, seizing Bourlon Wood and the high ground north of Bourlon and east of the Bois du Coquet and Dartford Wood. The 3rd Canadian Division would pass through the right of the 4th Canadian Division and advance towards Neuville St. Remy, in conjunction with the XVII Corps. Simultaneously the 4th Canadian Division would advance in the direction of Blécourt, and the 1st Canadian Division in the direction of Abancourt.

The Corps battlefront was impassable on the northern 3,800 yards and the assaulting troops must therefore take and cross the Canal du Nord on a frontage of 2,600 yards, when the attack would expand fan-wise to a front exceeding 15,000 yards. This intricate manoeuvre called for the most skilful leadership and the highest state of discipline among all ranks. The assembly in an extremely congested area, known by the

enemy to be the only one available, was excessively dangerous, and every resource of the Corps had to be crowded into that narrow space. To avoid giving any indication of the coming attack, no preliminary fighting to secure a jumping-off line was indulged in.

At 5.20 a.m. the assault was successfully launched and went well from the first. Early in the afternoon the first part of the attack was completed. On the extreme right, however, the XVII Corps had failed to keep up with our advance; the right flank had to be refused to keep touch with them, and the encircling movement which was to have secured Bourlon Wood could not be developed.

Fully alive to the situation which would be caused by the failure to capture and hold Bourlon Wood, which is 110 metres high and dominates the ground as far south as Flequières and Havrincourt, the 4th Canadian Division attacked from the north and captured all the high ground as far as Fontaine Notre Dame. A severe counter-attack from the direction of Raillencourt against the left of the 4th Canadian Division, was repulsed in the afternoon with heavy loss to the enemy. Owing to the situation on the right, the 3rd Canadian Division could not be engaged this day. The 1st Canadian Division made substantial gains, capturing Haynecourt and crossing the Douai-Cambrai road. Epinoy was also taken and Oisy le Verger.

The attack was continued next day, and the 3rd Canadian Division took Fontaine Notre Dame and reached the outskirts of St. Olle; the 4th Canadian Division captured Raillencourt and Sailly. The 1st Canadian Division in view of its great advance of the day before, which had created a considerable and acute salient, did not push forward.

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Heavy fighting characterized the 29th; the 3rd, 4th and 1st Canadian Divisions all made progress in the face of stubborn opposition. The 3rd Canadian Division pushed the line forward to the junction of the Arras-Cambrai and Bapaume-Cambrai roads, entered the outskirts of Neuville St. Remy, crossed the Douai-Cambrai road, and occupied part of the Marquien Line towards the Canal de l'Escaut. The latter trenches were in the XVII Corps area, but it was difficult for our attack to progress, leaving on its flank and rear this strongly held position. The 4th Canadian Division captured Sancourt, crossed the Douai-Cambrai railway and entered Blécourt; later it withdrew to the railway in face of a counter-attack. The 1st Canadian Division captured positions in the neighbourhood of Abancourt Station; these were exposed and swept with machine-gun fire, and had to be relinquished.

The continuation of the attack commenced well on the 30th, with the capture of Tilloy and Blécourt. A counter-attack, however, forced the line on the left back to Sancourt, and the net gains for the day were the capturing of Tilloy and some advancement from Neuville St. Remy south. Prisoners taken during the day testified to the supreme importance, in the eyes of the enemy, of the positions held by him, and the necessity that they be held at all costs.

The tremendous exertions made by all ranks and the many casualties had reduced the freshness and efficiency of all arms. It was, however, known that the enemy was hard pressed, and it seemed possible that matters had reached a stage where his losses, both in men and morale, were costing him more than the positions were worth. The assault was therefore continued on October 1st, the 3rd, 4th and 1st Canadian Divisions and the 11th (British) Division, in line from right to left, attacking simultaneously under a barrage. The attack made excellent progress on the right and centre in the early stages, and the Corps reached the general line Canal de l'Escaut, Morenchies Wood, Cuvillers, Bantigny, all inclusive.

The decision of the enemy to resist to the last quickly manifested itself. At 10 a.m. heavy counter-attacks developed from the exposed left flank and up the Bantigny Ravine from Paillencourt, and our line was forced by greatly superior numbers out of Cuvillers, Bantigny and

Blécourt. To have thrown tired and sorely-tried troops against such opposition, without giving them an opportunity to rest and refit, would have been courting disaster, and it was decided to pause, as at the Canal du Nord a month before.

The five days' fighting had yielded practical gains of a very decided nature; 7,059 prisoners and 205 guns had been taken, the last organized system of trenches had been broken, and the wedge driven into the enemy's line had forced a general withdrawal, both north and south. Six divisions were employed by the Germans to reinforce the four divisions in the line, making a total of ten enemy divisions engaged since the 27th September, and these had been reinforced by thirteen Marksman Machine Gun Companies, a sure indication of the importance attached to this part of the line by the German High Command.

On the night of October 1st-2nd, the 2nd Canadian Division relieved the 4th and part of the 3rd and 1st Canadian Divisions in the line from Tilloy to Blécourt. At 6.15 p.m. on October 2nd the enemy delivered a determined counter-attack northeast of Tilloy. This was met and repulsed in the usual manner. From the 3rd to the 8th there were no material changes on the Corps front. On the 4th the 2nd Canadian Division beat off another counter-attack opposite Bantigny.

On the 5th, the Canadian Corps was ordered to co-operate in the forcing of the crossings of the Canal de l'Escaut with the object of capturing Cambrai by envelopment. The Corps was to cross the Canal and by a rapid advance to take Escadœuvres. The villages of Morenchies and Ramillies were held by the enemy, and broad glacis-like slopes led down to the Canal. It was therefore decided that the attack should be by night. The 3rd Canadian Division was to seize the railway embankment, and, entering Cambrai as early as possible, protect the further advance of the 2nd Canadian Division, along the high ground east of Thun St. Martin.

On the night of the 8th-9th, at 1.30 a.m., the attack was launched; at 2.25 the 2nd Canadian Division had captured Ramillies. On the right the infantry, assisted by a party of engineers, rushed the crossings at Pont d'Aire and captured the bridge intact. Two cork bridges were thrown across and by 3.35 a.m. the infantry was well established on the

CANADIAN BATTLEFIELD MEMORIALS

eastern side. The 3rd Canadian Division had cleared the railway and were pushing into Cambrai, and the engineers had begun to repair and rebuild bridges. By 8 a.m. the 2nd Canadian Division had captured Escadocuvres and the 3rd Canadian Division had completely cleared Cambrai. The Third Army, in which was the Canadian Cavalry Brigade, could be seen advancing towards it from the south. The 2nd Canadian Division then occupied Thun Leveque, Thun St. Martin, Blécourt, Cuvillers and Bantigny, and at 6.30 a.m. on the 10th October, attacked and captured Naves. At 9 a.m. on the 11th October, the attack was resumed and Iwuy was captured. At 10.30 the enemy delivered a heavy counter-attack, supported by seven tanks; the assaulting infantry were dispersed by machine-gun fire, and six of the tanks knocked out by artillery.

The Arras-Cambrai fighting was now over. Since August 26th the Canadian Corps had advanced 23 miles, fighting for every foot of ground. Thirty-one German divisions, reinforced by numerous special Marksman Machine-Gun Companies, in strongly fortified positions of their own choosing and under conditions most favourable for defence, had been

engaged and decisively defeated. The captures included 18,585 prisoners, 371 guns, 1,923 machine-guns and many trench mortars; 116 square miles of French territory had been liberated, containing 54 towns and villages, including the City of Cambrai. Canadian casualties were: officers, 1,544; other ranks, 29,262.

The storming of the Bourlon heights, by bringing the Canadian Corps definitely behind the areas organized for defence, made possible the capture of the main Hindenburg Line to the south on the fronts of the Third and Fourth Armies. The loss of these prepared defences, hitherto supposed to be impregnable, imposed upon the enemy a rapid withdrawal to the River Selle and subsequently to other natural defence lines. The Canadian Corps was engaged on the 1st and 2nd November in the Battle of Valenciennes, and by the capture of Mont Houy secured possession of that important city. Further fighting took place from the 4th to 7th November in the Battle of the Sambre and the forcing of the Grande Honnelle. Early on the morning of the 11th November, a few hours before the Armistice terminated hostilities, the Canadians captured Mons.

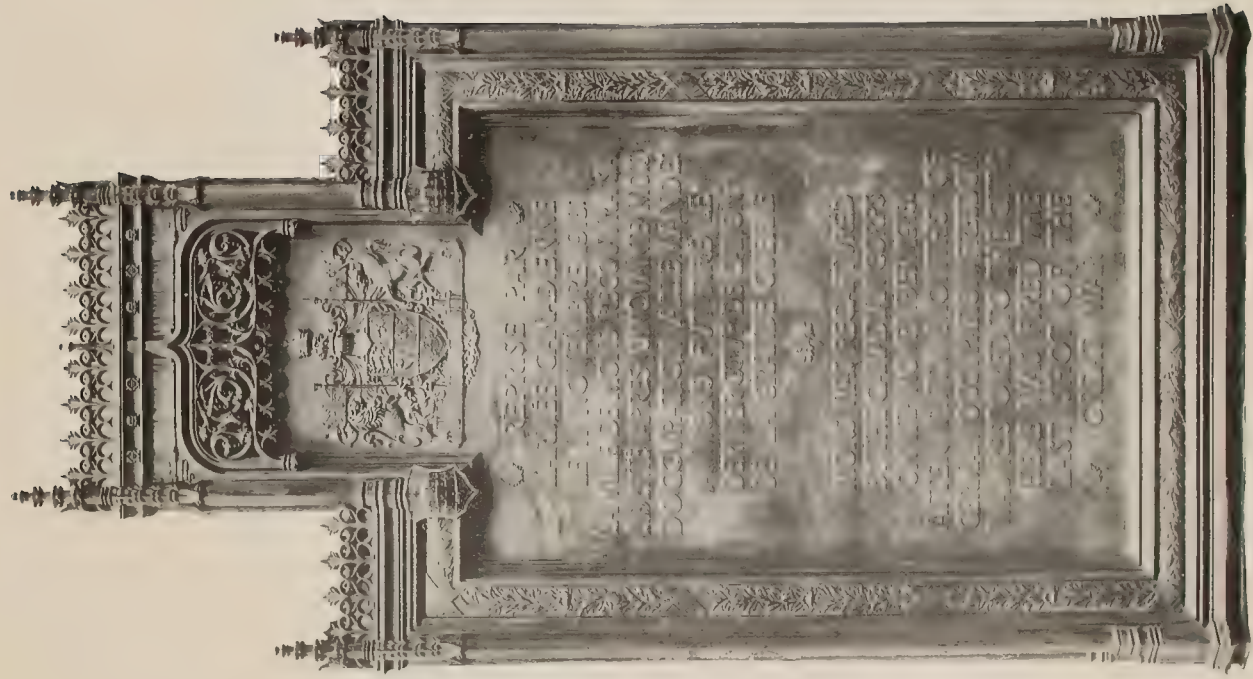
THE CANADIAN MEMORIAL AT MONS

On November 11th, 1918, Canadian troops entered the city of Mons, Belgium, and relieved it from the enemy after fifty months of occupation. This event has been commemorated by the erection of a memorial tablet in the Hotel de Ville in that city. It was unveiled on June 12th, 1927, by Lieut.-General Sir H. E. Burstall, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Commander of the Second Canadian Division. The Canadian Government was specially represented by the Honourable Rodolphe Lemieux, Speaker of the House of Commons.

MONS

MONS WAS RECAPTURED BY THE CANADIAN CORPS
ON 11TH NOVEMBER 1918: AFTER FIFTY MONTHS OF
GERMAN OCCUPATION FREEDOM WAS RESTORED TO
THE CITY: HERE WAS FIRED THE LAST SHOT OF
THE GREAT WAR.

REPRISE PAR L'ARMEE CANADIENNE, LE 11 NOVEMBRE
1918, LA VILLE DE MONS RECOUVRA SA LIBERTE APRES
CINQUANTE MOIS D'OCCUPATION ALLEMANDE. A
MONS FUT TIRE LE DERNIER COUP DE CANON DE LA
GRANDE GUERRE.



UNVEILING OF THE CANADIAN MEMORIAL AT MONS

As reported in "La Province", Mons, June 13th, 1927

"L'inscription qui couvre ce mémorial en bronze, de style gothique, d'une facture remarquable, d'une exécution irréprochable, riche dans sa simplicité, élégant et sobre à la fois, cette inscription, en français et en anglais, dans son laconisme impressionnant, rappelle ce que firent les soldats canadiens."

Here followed a description of the Canadian Detachment of Troops who were awaited at the railway station by a detachment of the Garrison of Mons. During the morning the civic authorities had decorated with flowers the graves of Canadian soldiers in the local cemetery.

The Burgomaster of Mons received the Canadian delegation and spoke of the great happiness of the people of Mons when they saw the Canadian Troops arrive on the morning of November 11th, 1918. He said:

"Vous avez permis d'arborer le drapeau belge, que nous avions dû cacher dans nos coeurs pendant cinquante mois.

"Le spectacle de votre arrivée est inoubliable. Il y en a parmi vous qui ont vu ce spectacle de reconnaissance de la ville de Mons à ses libérateurs.

"Depuis lors, c'est toujours avec la joie la plus grande que nous recevons des Britanniques.

"La ville de Mons vous accueille le coeur et les bras grands ouverts. Vous êtes ici chez vous; vous êtes pour nous des frères."

The troops were massed before the Hotel de Ville; the Canadian Trumpeters sounded the salute and Lieutenant-General Sir H. E. Burstall unveiled the tablet.

The following telegram from the Prime Minister of Canada was received and read:—

"A l'occasion du dévoilement de la plaque commémorative de l'entrée des troupes canadiennes à Mons, je vous prie de transmettre à la Ville de Mons le message suivant: Le peuple canadien est heureux et fier de commémorer avec le peuple belge la victoire de Mons, dont la nouvelle nous arriva en même temps que celle de l'armistice. Le témoignage offert à la bravoure de nos soldats sur le lieu même de leur sacrifice est le symbole des souffrances et des gloires communes qui unissent le Canada à la Belgique. Etroitement associés dans l'épreuve et dans le

triomphe, nos deux pays s'inclinent pieusement devant leurs fils héroïques que la mort a rassemblés et confondus dans une immortelle renommée."

The Burgomaster of Mons followed. He mentioned the fact that the senior generals commanding Canadian troops had been made citizens of honour of the City of Mons and said in part:—

"La gracieuse pensée que vous avez eue de nous offrir aujourd'hui cette superbe oeuvre d'art nous est un témoignage nouveau de la sincérité et de la durabilité de vos sentiments pour la population montoise et, j'ose dire, pour la population belge tout entière.

"Elle nous est aussi l'occasion agréable et solennelle de vous affirmer que nos sentiments d'admiration, d'estime et d'infinie reconnaissance sont aussi ardents et vivaces qu'en 1918.

"Le temps ne pourra rien contre des liens aussi solides et aussi sacrés que ceux qui nous unissent à votre peuple.

"A vos morts glorieux qui reposent au sein de notre terre, dans notre nécropole et sur la tombe desquels nous avons aujourd'hui déposé quelques fleurs, nous gardons et garderons un souvenir éternel et fervent; dites bien à leurs familles que nous les vénérons comme nos propres enfants.

"Aux survivants de la grande guerre, à la génération qui les suit, à votre nation tout entière, portez, avec nos remerciements, notre salut cordial et fraternel." "Mon coeur est, à cette heure solennelle, pour vous plein de gratitude et, par vous, plein d'espérance.

"Vive l'Empire britannique!

"Vive le Canada!"

The following telegram was sent to the British Ambassador at Brussels:—

"A l'occasion de l'inauguration du mémorial offert par le Canada à la Ville de Mons en souvenir de la reprise de la ville par les vaillantes troupes canadiennes, le 11 Novembre 1918, le Conseil communal et la population tout entière vous prient d'exprimer au Roi George V et à sa glorieuse armée l'hommage respectueux de leur gratitude.

MAISTRIAU, bourgmestre."

MEMORIAL ARCH, MENIN GATE, YPRES

Illustration by permission of "The Times"

This Arch was erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission which represents all the countries of the British Empire. On it have been inscribed in stone the names of fifty-six thousand missing Englishmen, Scots, Welsh, Irish, Canadians*, Australians, South Africans, Indians and Colonials who fell in the Ypres Salient, but have no known graves. The memorial designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield occupies a position at the town end of the Causeway, across the moat leading to the Menin Road, over which passed, never to return, those who have been commemorated there. It is in the form of an arch or gateway; the main hall is about 70 feet span by 50 feet in height and 130 feet in length from end to end. Looking at the Arch from outside the old ramparts of which it forms a part, the main structure rises in three great steps, and is surmounted in the centre by the figure of a lion in repose.

*About 7,500 in number

The main inscriptions on the memorial are:

TO THE ARMIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE WHO
STOOD HERE FROM 1914 TO 1918 AND TO THOSE
OF THEIR DEAD WHO HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVE

IN MAIOREM DEI GLORIAM

HERE ARE RECORDED NAMES OF OFFICERS AND
MEN WHO FELL IN YPRES SALIENT BUT TO
WHOM THE FORTUNE OF WAR DENIED THE
KNOWN AND HONOURED BURIAL GIVEN TO
THEIR COMRADES IN DEATH

THEY SHALL RECEIVE A CROWN OF GLORY
THAT FADETH NOT AWAY



ALLOCATION PAR LE MARECHAL FOCH

AU DEVOILEMENT DU MONUMENT A ST. JULIEN

Il m'est facile vraiment, au pied de ce monument, de me rappeler ce jour fatidique où les Allemands, dans un effort pour s'assurer la victoire, eurent recours aux émissions de gaz, violant encore un autre traité, une autre convention solennelle.

Comment oublier de pareils événements ? Pouvez-vous comprendre les angoisses profondes des chefs qui, surpris par de nouveaux moyens d'attaque contre lesquels ils n'avaient pas de parade, devaient tout de même faire front et envoyer dans la fournaise des hommes qu'ils savaient par avance désarmés ?

C'est la gloire de ces hommes venus du Canada d'avoir tenu, et, miracle d'énergie, contre-attaqué St-Julien, transformant ce village et le petit bois qui l'avoisinait en une redoute derrière laquelle le Maréchal French et moi pouvions rechercher et mettre en action les moyens qui devaient empêcher que la surprise ne se transformât en grave défaite.

Les Canadiens ont payé lourdement pour leur sacrifice et le coin de terre sur lequel s'élève ce monument de gratitude et de piété a été baigné de leur sang. Ils ont écrit ici leur première page de ce livre de gloire qui est l'histoire de leur participation à la guerre.

Car, ce n'est pas ici seulement que leur tranquille courage a eu raison des efforts les plus désespérés de l'ennemi. Nous retrouvons les Canadiens à la falaise de Vimy qu'ils capturent et débordent largement dans un superbe assaut.

Lorsque le ciel s'assombrit, à la fin de mars, les éléments canadiens sont au premier rang des efforts qui arrivent dans la brèche en face d'Amiens.

Et lorsqu'en août l'heure de la grande offensive était venue, les troupes canadiennes enfoncent les lignes allemandes sur la route d'Amiens à Roye, et, le premier jour, avancent de plus de quinze kilomètres.

Ce n'est là que la préface de cette période ardente pendant laquelle les Canadiens s'avancent d'Arras à Cambrai qu'ils capturent, brisant sur leur passage la fameuse ligne Quéant-Drocourt réputée imprenable; puis, inlassables, toujours en pointe, ils partent de Douai, s'emparent de Valenciennes et, enfin, saisissent Mons le jour de l'armistice, couronnant par la capture de cette ville une bataille de cent jours au cours de laquelle les Canadiens se sont dépensés sans compter et ont accompli les plus illustres exploits.

Dans ces cent jours, ils ont libéré plus de 700 kilomètres carrés du sol français, 228 villes et villages, engagé et brisé définitivement 47 divisions allemandes qui laissent entre leurs mains plus de 31,000 prisonniers, 700 canons, 400 obusiers et des milliers de mitrailleuses.

C'est avec une émotion profonde que j'exalte ces souvenirs en face de ce monument simple et fort comme la pensée canadienne.

Je me souviens des jours où, mus par le même sentiment de justice et l'ardent amour de la liberté, nous luttons ensemble contre l'ennemi commun. Cette intime collaboration nous a donné la victoire sur le champ de bataille.

Laissez-moi croire que les sacrifices mutuellement consentis par nos soldats créent entre nos pays des liens impérissables que l'intrigue ne pourra pas affaiblir.

ADDRESS BY MARSHAL FOCH

AT THE UNVEILING OF THE MONUMENT AT ST. JULIEN

It is indeed easy for me, at the foot of this Monument, to recall that fateful day when the Germans, in an effort to secure victory, had recourse to discharges of gas, violating yet another treaty, another solemn agreement.

How can one forget such events? Can you understand the deep anguish of the leaders who, surprised by new methods of attack against which they had no means of defence, had none the less to face them and send into the furnace men whom they knew in advance to be disarmed?

It is the glory of those men from Canada to have held fast, and, miracle of energy, counter-attacked St. Julien, making this village and the little neighbouring wood into a redoubt behind which Marshal French and I were able to seek and put into effect means which were to prevent the surprise from becoming a serious defeat.

The Canadians paid heavily for their sacrifice and the corner of earth on which this Monument of gratitude and piety rises has been bathed in their blood. They wrote here their first page of that Book of Glory which is the history of their participation in the war.

For it is not only here that their steady courage overcame the most desperate efforts of the enemy. We find the Canadians again at the Ridge of Vimy which they capture and widely overrun in a superb assault.

When the outlook is dark, at the end of March, Canadians are among the first who arrive in the breach before Amiens.

And when, in August, the hour of the great offensive has come, Canadian troops break through the German lines on the road from Amiens to Roye and the first day advance more than 15 kilometres.

That is only the preface of that ardent period during which the Canadians advance from Arras to Cambrai which they capture, breaking in their passage the famous Quéant-Drocourt line, reputed to be impregnable; then, tireless, always aggressive, they leave Douai, seize Valenciennes and at length take possession of Mons on the day of the Armistice, crowning by the capture of that city a battle of one hundred days in the course of which the Canadians spent themselves without counting the cost and performed the most illustrious exploits.

In those hundred days they have liberated more than 700 square kilometres of French soil, 228 towns and villages, engaged and definitely broken 47 German divisions who leave in their hands more than 31,000 prisoners, 700 guns, 400 mortars and thousands of machine guns.

It is with deep emotion that I recall these memories in front of this Monument, simple and strong like the Canadian spirit.

I recall the days when, moved by the same feelings of justice and burning love of liberty, we fought together against the common enemy. This close collaboration gave us victory on the field of battle.

Let me believe that the sacrifices mutually accepted by our soldiers have created between our countries imperishable bonds which intrigue will not be able to weaken.

OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF THE COMMISSION'S
WORK IN BELGIUM AND FRANCE
AND PERIODS OF SERVICE

Brigadier-General H. T. Hughes, C.M.G., D.S.O., R.C.E. Chief Engineer
November 21st, 1919 - .

Lieutenant Arthur A. N. Hayne: 1919-1920.

Lieutenant George W. Boughton: 1919-1920.

Major Maurice Pope, M.C., R.C.E. Assistant to Chief Engineer: May
27th, 1920-December 31st., 1921.

Captain L. Lacroix. Financial Officer: June 1st, 1922-December 31st,
1925.

Colonel J. T. E. Gagnon, R.C.A.P.C. Financial Officer: June 14th,
1920-December 31st, 1921.

Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Ross, D.S.O., C.F.A.: May 24th, 1920-March 31st,
1926.

Captain D. C. U. Simson, R.C.E. Assistant to Chief Engineer: April 6th,
1923 - .

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO CONSIDER AND REPORT UPON THE QUESTION
OF WHAT MEMORIALS, IF ANY, SHOULD BE ERECTED IN THE
BATTLEFIELDS OF THE LATE WAR TO COMMEMORATE THE
GALLANTRY OF THE CANADIAN TROOPS; WITH STATEMENTS
AND EVIDENCE ATTACHED THERETO. FOURTH SESSION,
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT, 1920

ORDER OF REFERENCE

House of Commons,

Ottawa, April 21, 1920.

Resolved,—That a Special Committee be appointed to consider and report upon the question of what memorials, if any, should be erected on the battlefields of the late war to commemorate the gallantry of the Canadian troops and all matters arising out of or in connection with the same; and that Messrs. Mewburn, Clark (Red Deer), Lemieux, Beland, McCurdy, Peck, Mowat, Power and Blake be the members of such Committee with power to sit during the sessions of the House.

Attest. W. B. NORTHROP,

Clerk of the House.

Wednesday, April 28, 1920.

Ordered,—That the said Committee be empowered to send for persons and papers, and to report from time to time.

Attest. W. B. NORTHROP,

Clerk of the House.

FIRST REPORT

The Special Committee appointed to consider and report upon the question of what memorials, if any, should be erected upon the battlefields of the late war begs leave to present the following as its First Report:—

Your Committee, pursuant to the Resolution passed by the House on the 21st instant, met on the 22nd instant, for organizing purposes, and at this meeting the Hon. S. C. Mewburn was elected Chairman.

Prior to the appointment of your Committee a considerable amount of preliminary investigation and work had been done by the Department of Militia and Defence; and the first task of your Committee was to consider the information laid before it by that Department.

The Chairman read the Statement hereto attached, marked "A," outlining in general terms the progress which had been made.

Brigadier General H. T. Hughes, C.M.G., D.S.O., was then examined, and his statement is attached hereto, marked "B."

Subsequently your Committee examined General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., and Professor Percy E. Nobbs, Professor of Architecture in McGill University.

After considering all the material before it, and hearing the evidence of the witnesses, your Committee makes the following recommendations, viz.:—

(1) That it is desirable for the honour of Canada to erect a number of Memorials in France and Belgium to mark the exploits of the Canadian Forces.

(2) That the undermentioned eight sites, which were selected after careful consideration by a Committee of senior officers, over which Sir Arthur Currie presided, are the most suitable and should be adopted:—

1. St. Julien.
2. Passchendaele, Crest Farm.
3. Hill 62, Observatory Ridge.
4. Hill 145, Vimy.
5. Dury Cross Roads.
6. Bourlon Wood.
7. Courcellette.
8. Hospital Wood, between Caix and LeQuesnel.

The three sites in Belgium (1, 2 and 3) were donated by the Belgian Government. Of those in France four were purchased from private owners at a total cost of \$1,500. The fifth at Bourlon Wood was presented to Canada by the Comte de Francqueville, Mayor of Bourlon, as a token of his gratitude and appreciation of the gallant work of the Canadian Corps. Titles to all these properties have been obtained, and the deeds are in the office of the High Commissioner in London.

CANADIAN BATTLEFIELD MEMORIALS

(3) That eight Memorials of a permanent character and worthy of the events commemorated should be erected on these sites. In regard to these Memorials two alternative suggestions were considered, namely:—

(a) That all eight Memorials should be of the same general character, and erected at approximately the same cost;

(b) That one of the eight, in a central position, should be of a more imposing design than the other seven.

The Committee considered that this point might be left for determination at a later date.

(4) That a competition in design, open to all Canadian architects, designers, artists and sculptors, should be held to determine the design or designs to be adopted.

It was pointed out to your Committee that a number of Canadian artists or designers might not be resident or engaged in practising their profession in Canada, but might, for example, be studying at institutions abroad or in the United States. It was felt that such individuals should not be excluded from the competition, and that the final decision as to the eligibility of any person to submit designs should be left in the unfettered discretion of the Department, Commission or Committee which should eventually assume charge of the work.

(5) Your Committee considered the conditions of such a competition prepared by Professor Nobbs, and noted the fact that they had been examined and approved by the President of the Royal Canadian Institute of Architects, and the presidents of the Provincial Architects' Associations. It was, however, the Committee's opinion that the final adoption of such conditions should be left to the Department, Commission or Committee which should eventually be charged with the carrying out of the proposed project.

(6) That the holding of the competition, the selection of designs, the letting of contracts and the prosecution of the work generally could best be undertaken by a small honorary commission, with a Minister of the Crown as a member, invested with the widest possible powers consistent with the public interest.

(7) That as four of the sites are at a distance from the main highway, it will be necessary to construct approximately three miles of permanent roads; first, to enable material to be hauled to the sites, and second, to provide permanent and suitable access to the Memorials.

The construction of these roads, and the competition in design are matters requiring immediate attention, and the Committee recommends that the sum of \$250,000 be included in the Supplementary Estimates at the present Session of Parliament in order that this work may be carried on.

Your Committee is strongly of the opinion that Brigadier General H. T. Hughes should proceed to Europe at the earliest possible date in order that necessary preliminary construction, particularly upon the roads, may proceed without delay.

(8) Your Committee is not in possession of the necessary data on which to base an accurate estimate of the cost. From the information before it, however, it is of the opinion that the cost of erecting eight Memorials all of the same general character, including road-building, competition in design, professional fees, travelling and other incidental expenses, would approximate \$1,500,000.

Should it be decided to erect one Memorial of more imposing or elaborate design than the others, the cost would be proportionately increased.

Your Committee begs to submit herewith the evidence of General Currie and Professor Nobbs marked "C."

All which is respectfully submitted.

S. C. MEWBURN,
Chairman.

Thursday, May 6, 1920.

—
"A"

Ottawa, April 22, 1920.

STATEMENT READ BY THE CHAIRMAN

Shortly after the Armistice in November, 1918, consideration was given to the question of erecting Battlefield Memorials in different parts of the world.

In February 1919, the Battle Exploits Memorials Commission was formed, and on this Brigadier-General H. T. Hughes, C.M.G., D.S.O., was appointed as Canada's representative. Subsequently a meeting was held for the purpose of considering which exploits of the Canadian forces should be commemorated in the way mentioned. The Corps Commander, Sir Arthur Currie, presided at this meeting and a considerable number of senior officers were present. Eight sites were recommended and General Hughes was thereupon sent to France and Belgium to locate them approximately on the ground. What had been done was communicated to the Government by the Canadian High Commissioner, and upon the return of General Hughes to Canada with his Division he amplified verbally the statements contained in the High Commissioner's letter both to the Prime Minister and the then Minister of Militia.

Upon the arrival of the High Commissioner in Canada the matter was further discussed at a meeting attended by a number of ministers and representatives of the Militia Department. The matter was referred to on the floor of the House of Commons and subsequently, by Vote 514 miscellaneous, the sum of \$500,000 was appropriated by Parliament to meet preliminary expenses in connection with the matter.

In September 1919, General Hughes returned to France and Belgium and finally located, staked and made all arrangements for the purchase of the sites decided upon. The three sites in Belgium have been donated by the Belgium Government. Of those in France, four were purchased from private owners at a total cost of \$1,500, and the fifth site, Bourlon Wood, was presented to Canada by the Comte de Francqueville. A suitable acknowledgment of this gift has been made. Titles to all these properties have been obtained and necessary documents are in the High Commissioner's office.

At the present session of Parliament it was decided not to ask the House to revoke the appropriation above mentioned but to refer the whole matter for consideration to a Committee of the House. In the meantime \$10,000 has been included in the estimates for necessary current expenses.

CANADIAN BATTLEFIELD MEMORIALS

Pending the appointment of a Committee a considerable amount of preliminary work has been done in the Militia Department, particularly the preparation of maps of sites and narratives of the actions commemorated. Conditions for a competition in design have also been drafted and have been submitted to, and approved by, the president of the Canadian Institute of Architects and heads of provincial architectural associations. These conditions will no doubt form one of the subjects which the Committee will desire to discuss.

"B"

REPORT MADE BY

BRIGADIER-GENERAL H. T. HUGHES, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Ottawa, April 22, 1920.

A conference was held in Ottawa, August, 1919, for the purpose of discussing "Canadian Battlefield Memorials" in France and Belgium. This conference was attended by General Sir A. Currie, Sir George Perley, the Acting Prime Minister, Hon. N. W. Rowell, Major-General Mewburn (then Minister of Militia), and myself.

I was instructed to return to France and Belgium to complete the surveys and secure the titles for the Canadian Battlefields Memorials sites, which had previously been selected and approved by a meeting of senior officers at which General Sir A. Currie, Canadian Corps Commander, presided.

My mission accomplished, I returned to Canada in December, 1919. The three sites in Belgium, viz., St. Julien, Passchendaele and Hill 62 (Sanctuary Wood), were presented to Canada by the Belgian Government. Of the five sites in France I secured four by purchase, viz., Dury, Courcellette, Vimy and Caix, at a total cost of \$1,500. The fifth site at Bourlon Wood was presented to Canada by the Count de Francqueville, Mayor of Bourlon, as a slight token of his gratitude and appreciation for the gallant work of the Canadian Corps.

The title deeds of these properties are now deposited in the office of the High Commissioner of Canada, in London.

The dimensions or cadastral plans of the properties secured and upon which it is proposed to erect memorials have been prepared ready for reproduction and publication, together with a brief description of the engagements which these memorials will commemorate; also panorama sketches of each site as they exist to-day; a brief description of the surrounding landscape together with cross sections of the ground showing existing levels for the information and guidance of architectural designers.

The nature or design of the memorial which should be erected on these sites has yet to be decided.

It is assumed that a competition open to all Canadian architects, sculptors and artists will be held; also that it will be necessary to furnish a brief specification for their guidance, together with site plans, narratives, etc., to aid them in preparing their designs. The advice and assistance of Professor P. Nobbs, Professor of Architecture at McGill University, Montreal, has been secured and draft "conditions of competition" prepared and approved by the president of the Architectural Institute of Canada. Two distinct types of memorials are suggested in the "conditions of competition."

Class "A" suggests that the monument which will be erected on seven of the eight sites should take the form of an obelisk 150 feet in height.

Class "B" calls for a design of a building which should be erected on Vimy Ridge. This building would embody a war museum, memorial chapel, record offices and an observation tower.

As all preliminary arrangements have been made, it now remains for the Government to decide as to what future action shall be taken.

Assuming that designs will be called for and contracts let in time to allow of building construction being commenced this year, then it will be necessary to commence work as soon as possible on the construction of branch roads at Passchendaele, Sanctuary Wood, Vimy and Bourlon Wood.

These branch roads will lead from the main road to the Memorial sites and must be built to enable the contractors to deliver their plant and material on said sites and will provide access to the Memorials for all time. They should be of the most approved and durable construction.

The right of way for these roads has yet to be obtained and the co-operation of the French and Belgian Governments secured.

The levelling, grading and planting of trees and shrubs at the Memorial sites should be given consideration and the landscape gardener selected to undertake this service. The acreage contained in each site varies from 2½ acres to 6½ acres, and additional land can be obtained if desired.

"C"

EVIDENCE OF

GENERAL SIR ARTHUR CURRIE AND PROF. NOBBS

Tuesday, May 4, 1920.

The Battlefields Memorials Committee met at 3.30 p.m., the Chairman, Hon. S. C. Mewburn, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: We had the first meeting the other day in connection with these memorials, and it was thought desirable to get some information in connection with the whole matter.

General Currie, can you give us some information about the sites for these proposed memorials? We wanted to get some information from you as to what you thought would be best for the Government to do in regard to locating permanent and perpetual memorials on these eight sites which have been selected. General Hughes gave us a statement which he had prepared and which he submitted to the Committee some few weeks ago. I think you are familiar with the eight sites which have been selected. He stated that they had been selected with your approval, and he further presented here the fact that they had all been surveyed and the sites had been deeded to Canada and the documents and papers and title deeds were in the possession of the High Commissioner, and he also reported in one or two cases the necessity of preparing permanent and proper roadways immediately leading to these sites, and

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the opinion expressed by this Committee is that these eight memorials ought to be located on these sites. General Currie, if you have any other information which might be pertinent we would be glad to have your views in connection with this whole affair. I understand that you have gone over these sites?

General Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you be good enough to give us any views that you may have on this matter and any other information that you think would be of advantage to the Committee?

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: Mr. Chairman, there is no necessity for me to say anything about the desirability of erecting memorials. I think you are justified in having taken it for granted that it is the desire of the people of Canada to see memorials of some sort erected.

I discussed the situation with the Prime Minister at the time of the Peace Conference, and he agreed that something should be done. We looked over the locations to see where memorials might be erected, and those we finally selected were picked out after consultation with a good many officers. The eight sites so selected are in the vicinity of the eight outstanding battles of the war.

The CHAIRMAN: General Currie, could you name these sites and tell us if you have approved of them? I simply want a confirmation of your approval.

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: Beginning at the northern part, there is a site in the vicinity of St. Julien, commemorating the first hard fighting of the Canadians at Ypres.

Then, in the vicinity of Passchendaele, a site was finally selected at Crest Farm, on a very high piece of ground about three or four hundred yards from the centre of the village of Passchendaele.

Next, going south, is the one at Observatory Ridge. A great deal of fighting took place in that area, and from that memorial you could look over to Maple Copse, Sanctuary Wood, Stirling Castle, St. Eloi, Hill "60," the Snout, down into the valley and across to Mount Kemmel further south. A monument there will take in all that area.

Then there is the monument at Vimy where one of the first battles was fought by the Corps when it all went "over the top" together. This position the French had attacked and failed to hold, and then the British had been driven a little further back; so it was the scene of many bloody battles and a monument there would commemorate some of the greatest fighting which the Corps did. It would overlook Arleux, Avion, Fresnoy, Hill "70," and several other places.

There the memorial should be erected at Hill "145." From thence you can see Lens and all those places. You can see a very long distance. I believe you can see Bourlon Wood, and you might even look down into Cambrai itself.

Vimy is the place where the Corps was for eighteen months; it was the scene of a great deal of very creditable fighting.

Then going a little further south, there is a monument to be erected at Dury Cross Roads. That is the last ridge of the Hindenburg system. It is right at the Qu  ant-Drocourt Line. From there you can look back on Arras and Monchy, and the large ridge to the south of it—Wancourt Ridge. You can overlook the Qu  ant-

Drocourt Line and on to the other heights which formed the objective of the battle of September 27th. To commemorate that engagement they propose erecting a monument at Bourlon Wood from which one can see across the plains into Cambrai and beyond.

Then, going further South, I think there should be a memorial on the Somme battlefield. The Battle Honours Committee have decided to call the Somme fighting the Flers-Courcelette battle; and it is proposed to erect that memorial in the vicinity of Courcelette, near the Sugar Refinery, right on the main Albert-Bapaume Road. Thence you will be able to look back to P  zi  res, and you will see where the first Canadian troops went into line at the Somme. It is right in the middle of the Battlefields of September 15th, and you can also see the objectives of the battles of September 26th—27th, and October 1st-8th, and the trenches to the North.

Then at Amiens (a battle I think which had a much greater material result and a far greater moral effect than Vimy) the site, as far as my recollection goes, is quite clear. There is a high road there, it is practically right in the centre of the Amiens battlefield; and somewhere in the vicinity a memorial might be erected.

We marked all these sites. Colonel Hughes went down and examined them. He did not want the exact pinpoint to be in the swamp; so he picked the best ground, and also the ground that did not offer any difficulties in the proposed erection of a monument.

I do not think, if you should decide to erect more than one monument, that you can do anything else than erect eight. The sites selected are sites of battles of first importance and decisiveness; I think they cover the ground pretty well; and no part of the line would be neglected if on these eight sites memorials were erected.

I am not in favour of making one distinctive monument and seven other monuments. The Australians in selecting sites for their monuments were governed by the following policy: There were five Australian divisions; each division picked out the battlefield which marked its outstanding exploit and erected a monument thereon. They decided to erect, in addition to these, one monument for which they called for competitive designs, and for which they chose a site at Villers-Bretonneux. I would not be in favour of such a policy. As far as Canada and the Canadians are concerned it would not be satisfactory for each division to erect a monument on its most famous battlefield or one monument in commemoration of all the greatest events of the war. If, however, you decided to erect one monument alone, I think I would erect it at Vimy; although I do not think it was the most outstanding battle, or had the greatest material or moral effect on the winning of the war, not as much as at

Mr. MOWAT (interposing): Passchendaele?

Mr. POWER: I suppose from a standpoint of time Ypres is just as famous as Vimy. That is, off-hand, you spent as much time at Ypres.

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: No. For the first time we were there for about a month; in 1916 we were there six or seven months, in 1917, one month—that would be, perhaps, eight months altogether; while we were at Vimy for a year and a half.

The CHAIRMAN: If the Government were to erect but one monument, Vimy would be your choice?

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: I would think so. I would not want to have the impression left, however, that Vimy was our greatest battlefield.

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The CHAIRMAN: In your judgment, as I take it from what you said, you would prefer to see eight memorials erected.

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: Yes, all of the same kind; no one more outstanding than the others.

The CHAIRMAN: General, could you say (to get it in the records) that you have gone over the survey plans made by General Hughes and in your opinion they are the correct sites?

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: I don't think we need go over all the details, because you have gone over them all.

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: I agree.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there anything else you would like to suggest.

Mr. MOWAT: General, have you considered that while the eight should be alike so that no one should predominate over the other, or exceed the other in expense, should there not be one, say at Vimy, which is better than the others in order to signify the first time that the Corps was entirely together.

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: If I may say so, I was one of those who suggested a building at Vimy distinctive from the other memorials. If there was to be any distinction, I thought it might take the form of a different kind of monument; but I found that there were objections. I thought at the time that a building at Vimy where we could have a shrine, an information bureau and so forth would be a good thing. However, I am not wedded to the idea.

The CHAIRMAN: We were discussing the other day regarding a building, and some of us were of the opinion that in place of one of these monuments we might erect a building of this kind wherein could be housed the records of the Corps and the records of the graves and everything of that kind, but since, upon making inquiries, we find that the Imperial War Graves Commission is looking after those records, and I am inclined to the view that we need not really put that through. There is already a bureau where a record of the known graves are kept and where anybody going over can get information as regards any particular grave.

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: The necessity for such information will disappear as time goes on.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, exactly.

Mr. POWER: Has there been any suggestion as to the removal of the bodies to the vicinity of these memorials? I am asking that because I have a letter from a widowed mother of a soldier asking whether there is any idea of removing his remains to Observatory Ridge.

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: I do not think so.

Gen. HUGHES: In the vicinity of all these memorials there is a Canadian cemetery and they are digging up the bodies from scattered graves and placing them together. Vimy, for instance, has two large cemeteries and I know when I was over there last November and December they were collecting the bodies and making two large cemeteries to hold them.

Mr. POWER: What happened in the vicinity of Ypres?

Gen. HUGHES: There were several cemeteries. These are cemeteries where the remains are concentrated and they will be kept up by the Imperial War Graves Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: The permanent head stones have nothing to do with these memorials. Canada is buying these stones and paying all the cost and I understand they are all of one design.

Mr. POWER: I also have a complaint that the Imperial War Graves Commission do not answer letters.

The CHAIRMAN: That is entirely distinct from this. That is another matter that will be gone into later on.

Mr. MOWAT: Let us carry our minds ahead a hundred years and if you have one particular thing the others sink into insignificance. Take Brock's Monument for instance, it is a tall affair. It would cost over a half a million dollars to build today, but it will last for hundreds of years, but I have arrived at the conclusion that we should have one distinctive memorial and I do not like to recede from that position without further discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: I was reading the other day an article where it said that whatever Canada did should be lasting and absolutely permanent and could we do better by concentrating on one magnificent monument rather than eight, but as General Currie points out there were eight distinct battles and we want to perpetuate the memory of these battles.

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: I quite realize that you cannot spend three or four or five million dollars in building these memorials. The amount to be spent must be reasonable; and while everybody is anxious that the memorials be erected, there must be a limit to expenditure. Personally, I have no idea of what the monuments would cost.

Mr. MOWAT: Yes, the idea of having all the same is largely due to a sense of justice which exists at the present time. Nobody wants to exploit this now. But fifty years from now those things will all be forgotten, and if we only had the eight relatively unimportant memorials, I am afraid we would then be sorry. It seems to me we should have one magnificent monument somewhere and the others smaller ones located at these different sites.

Brig.-Gen. H. T. HUGHES: Here is a picture of a memorial which the British are proposing to erect.

The CHAIRMAN: What is that?

Brig.-Gen. HUGHES: That is a monument at Menin Gate, Ypres, designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, and they propose to have all the dominions join in it. They are expending two hundred and fifty thousand pounds I think.

Mr. POWER: How much?

Brig.-Gen. HUGHES: Two hundred and fifty thousand pounds is the estimated cost. It is right near the Memorial Arch.

Mr. POWER: I thought you told us the other day two and a half million pounds.

The CHAIRMAN: No; dollars.

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Mr. POWER: It strikes me if this fighting had taken place in Canada we would have had half a dozen different monuments, so we might as well do the same thing overseas.

Mr. PECK: I am very strongly in favour of that too. I think we all favour the spending of some money. I don't think there will be any complaint at all. I believe a great central memorial should be erected at Vimy also, because, while it was not our most successful battle, it was the place where the Canadian army showed up so well, and I think we should have some characteristic memorial, but whether each one should be exactly alike does not make much difference to me; but it seems to me that we should have a little different design, even if it is only in the base and not the whole monument, but something distinctive about each memorial.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand there is a movement on foot to erect a memorial in Canada somewhere.

Mr. MCCURDY: Can we have, for the purpose of a record, General, an estimate of the sums which are to be spent by the Australians and Great Britain on their memorials? You may be away when we discuss this question again.

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: I cannot give you any details regarding the other Dominions; nor can I tell you how many memorials the British Government proposes to erect.

Brig.-Gen. HUGHES: All I can tell you is the fact that this memorial to be erected at Menin Gate in which they propose to include all the Dominions and the estimate by Sir Reginald Blomfield was two hundred and fifty thousand pounds for the arch at Menin Gate.

Mr. MCCURDY: Do you know what the expenditures are estimated to be in Australia and New Zealand?

Brig.-Gen. HUGHES: No, I have no idea.

Mr. MCCURDY: Could they be obtained?

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: Yes. At the time when I discussed things with the Prime Minister in Paris, Mr. Hughes had given instructions to Lieut.-General Hobbs to go and erect five memorials for Australia: i.e., one on each battlefield, one for each division. But the intention was to take time in selecting the site for the one outstanding Australian memorial which it had been decided to raise.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand that the British regiments are erecting different regimental memorials there, and that would not be a national one.

Brig.-Gen. HUGHES: There are different memorials being erected by private funds. There are dozens and dozens of applications from battalions and brigades.

Mr. MCCURDY: Are you referring to memorials erected by private funds?

Brig.-Gen. HUGHES: By private funds.

The CHAIRMAN: That would have nothing to do with the Federal one?

Brig.-Gen. HUGHES: No.

The CHAIRMAN: Sir Arthur, have you anything further to give us? If not, we would like the opinion of Professor Nobbs.

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: I can make no suggestion as to the character of the memorials; but I would like something from the top of which you could get a commanding view.

Mr. PECK: Not cubist?

Gen. Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: I would not be in favour of a great outstanding shaft.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps we could get Professor Nobbs' opinion on the whole thing. He was good enough to come up here when we first discussed it. Professor Nobbs, have you anything to say?

Mr. PERCY E. NOBBS, Professor of Architecture, McGill University: The last time I was here we discussed the advisability of one large monument and seven battlefield monuments. Of course, it is for the Committee to decide whether they want one large and seven small monuments or eight similar monuments, but I think really that eight monuments should be erected in all.

I have advised already that designs for the monuments should be obtained by means of a public competition. There would be no difficulty in naming eight separate competent architects in Canada, but as this is a public matter, there is a great deal to be said in favour of a public competition for selecting the designers to be honoured with those commissions.

The machinery for one large and seven smaller monuments or eight monuments of a similar kind would be very much the same. If a competition is to be started, it is necessary to have professional architects appointed to judge the designs.

It is absolutely necessary, also, for the Government in this competition to put itself right with the architects, and the essential thing which the professional requires is to see that the matter is decided upon the professional assessors' award, and a second thing is to see that the conditions of the competition are actually carried out. There must be a distinct understanding in the competition. It must be a contract between the promoters—the Government—and the various architects—the persons to be entrusted with the carrying out of the work. That is a matter of technique which the professional assessors will have to carry out. I do not think it is necessary to go into details at this particular time.

When we come to consider however what the rewards are to be that is a matter for the Committee to decide. Now, consider how many architects there are in Canada and how desirable it is that every one of them should respond as they will if the conditions are satisfactory. Probably this competition should be handled in two stages, the first as an open competition for the selection of a limited number of architects who would be asked to submit further designs and be remunerated for doing so in the second competition. I advise that in the first open competition the conditions should be as general as possible merely indicating the number of cubic feet or the number of dollars to be expended with some idea of how much stone the sum would buy, so as to give the designers the utmost scope for making suggestions.

Of course there will have to be assessors, probably three in number, to select perhaps fifteen architects for the second competition. The preliminary designs should not be of a very expensive nature. Then when we have the fifteen architects, we can call them together and ask them for suggestions. By the time the professional assessors have looked over all the suggestions—they should be prepared to recommend the best type of monument. I do not think the question of type matters very

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much at the present time. The decision whether we should have obelisks or triumphal arches or pyramids is a matter that will result from the competition. Of course the obelisk type would give you greater height, the pyramids most mass and so on, but this really does not make much difference at the present time when the first open competition is before us.

There is certainly a great deal to be said however for the monuments conforming more or less to one type. There will be so many monuments in France that it is important to have a distinctive Canadian type, and a series of monuments should be erected which will leave a certain impression upon the visitors of what the Canadian monuments look like. On the other hand, in order to get all these monuments really interesting in character they should be distinctive in matters of detail; that is to say, be the work of different designers.

There should be as many architects commissioned as you have monuments and they should be selected by an open competition followed by a limited one.

Mr. PECK: Would you have them all exactly alike?

Mr. NOBBS: No, but a general ruling type should govern all these monuments, and possibly when you have actually selected your eight architects, these gentlemen might meet together and very largely decide among themselves upon certain governing characteristics. That is the advice I would give to this Committee in having the conditions of competition framed. There are a number of technical points connected with bringing this about but I do not think it would be necessary to go into them now.

For preliminary purposes the Committee should set a figure at a round sum, say one hundred thousand dollars, for each of the monuments——

The CHAIRMAN: (interposing): Pardon me, but would we be safe in setting a round sum at the present time as to what the cost of erecting these monuments will be?

Mr. NOBBS: There is very little to go on. I suppose you know that building in France costs about half of what it does in Canada at the present time. Here it is a little more than twice the cost that it was in 1914.

The competition is to establish a type. You must not consider that the competition is to absolutely fix the design of these monuments. Rather you should regard the competition as serving two purposes, first to find the designers and second to establish a type, and after that the final details of the designs will have to be worked out with the organization, commission, committee, or whatever you may have in the way of machinery to work with.

There is one thing which should be done as a precaution in the last stage of the competition, if it is running in two stages. There should be some provision for the French authorities to have a final review of the designs and my advice would be to have one Canadian assessor and a French and an English architect associated with him to review these final designs.

Mr. MOWAT: Is it your idea that the assessors should be architects?

Mr. NOBBS: Necessarily.

Mr. MOWAT: Then you must exclude them from the competition?

Mr. NOBBS: That is the trouble.

Mr. MOWAT: How will you get around that?

Mr. NOBBS: Every architect does not need to compete. Some of them may act as assessors.

Mr. MOWAT: It would be hard to keep them out.

Mr. NOBBS: If there are two or three other war-memorials going on I think there would be no difficulty about it. If, for instance, there is to be a national memorial here I don't think it will work any hardship on some architects to act as assessors.

Mr. MOWAT: And your advice is to get two architects from other countries and one Canadian?

Mr. NOBBS: Yes, it is very important to have a French architect. The French are a very critical people and they should have a say in the final selection. In France, there are I believe no war monuments erected by private subscription until passed upon by an official architect. The French are a very critical people and it is just as well to forestall public opinion by taking a French architect into consideration. As to price I would suggest for the preliminary competition that you take a hundred to a hundred and fifty thousand dollars each as a preliminary figure and multiply that by eight and you will see where you are.

Mr. PECK: You think of one hundred thousand dollars for each of seven monuments and five hundred thousand for a greater central monument? Would that include the ground?

The CHAIRMAN: We can eliminate the ground because we have that.

Brig.-Gen. HUGHES: We must not forget there is landscape gardening to be done on these sites as well.

The CHAIRMAN: Could we erect seven at one hundred thousand each and one at five hundred thousand?

Mr. PECK: That is only approximate.

Mr. NOBBS: Yes (continuing): If you have a large monument and seven minor monuments you would have two competitions, both of which should be carried out in this double-barrelled way. I think that is the right way to obtain results.

The CHAIRMAN: What is your idea as regards General Currie's view about the eight distinct memorials?

Mr. NOBBS: My view, sir?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. NOBBS: I think something very good can be got out of it—something can be expressed by having a monument on each battlefield which you could not express by a single central monument. It is a fact that the Canadians were fighting up and down the line—that is a historical fact—and I think if you made a series of these necessarily minor monuments it would have just as great an effect as one enormous monument. It would be a different kind of effect but I think it would be just as great and just as strong provided we had the designs distinctive enough in type, and distributed over these three hundred miles of battlefield.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you concur in General Currie's view regarding that? You heard what he said.

Mr. NOBBS: Regarding the desirability of eight memorials?

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The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. NOBBS: I would say that I would like the eight. The view that a central one was unnecessary was new to me. I had not heard the General express his opinion before. I would rather see the eight all along the line than a single one. It is very tempting from an architect's point of view, one big monument, but take the spirit in which the people are going to visit the battlefields—they are not going to stay in one place; they are going to travel up and down, and when they come to one place, and then to another place, and see all these characteristic monuments—and perhaps see one from the other on a clear day—I think they will get an idea of the scale of the Canadian effort; a much more general idea than they would have if there was one big central monument.

There is one point about materials which I think is very important. One of the committee spoke of where we will be in one hundred or five hundred years, I think it is most important to keep away from bronze. Let the sculpture be of stone, and use granite as much as possible. Take the old Greek buildings for instance, all of the bronze and metal has been taken away. The walls of the Parthenon have been robbed of the bronze dowels as have many of the other Greek buildings. You cannot leave metal lying about where a war may happen. I recommend the use of granite as far as possible.

Mr. PECK: I raised that question in the last meeting and I am very pleased to see that General Currie is thinking along the same line. I think it is absolutely sound to have eight separate monuments all of equal distinction. That, to me, is the proper spirit, I think it will be better appreciated and the less liable to cause a division of view for reasons that we all understand.

Mr. POWER: For the purpose of discussion you say you think one hundred thousand or one hundred and fifty thousand dollars would cover the cost of each monument? It is your intention to have the sculptors and artists and architects submit a preliminary sketch or something of that kind which would give something upon which we could work and then we could select a certain type from that. Surely you do not mean anything final about this one hundred thousand dollars?

Mr. NOBBS: That is correct. My idea is for a preliminary competition in order to prevent wild and extravagant ideas being promulgated, and when we restrict it to a matter of, say, one hundred thousand dollars which will buy twice as much stone or solid material in France as it will in Canada, we will be eliminating perhaps some very wild extravagant schemes which otherwise might be submitted. Under a restrictive condition of this kind there is less danger of some architects running riot.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you give this Committee an approximate idea of what we should recommend as to the amount of money that should be appropriated in connection with this. These monuments will take some time to build but we ought to have enough to go on with the roadways, competition prizes and so on and then come down to the memorials a little later on, but let us get something that we can present to this session of Parliament for some definite action.

Mr. NOBBS: If you are going to hold a competition the cost of the competition will comprise the payment of the assessors, and the premiums for the architects competing in the second round of the competition.

The CHAIRMAN: Could you give us an estimate of what you would consider Parliament should vote as an adequate remuneration for designers and so forth in the second round? The first round I understand they do not get paid for?

Mr. NOBBS: No, in the first round they do not get paid and the drawings should not be of an elaborate nature. If eight designs are desired, then in the second stage of the competition I should say that an adequate reward would be anywhere from three hundred to five hundred dollars each, to cover their expenses getting out the drawings or possibly making the models, for say sixteen selected competitors.

The CHAIRMAN: You say five hundred dollars? That would be four thousand dollars for that.

Mr. NOBBS: No. For eight monuments I would invite from sixteen to twenty. If you invite twenty architects for the final round—if you gave them five hundred dollars a piece, there is no reason why they should not submit plaster models instead of drawings.

The CHAIRMAN: We should recommend some approximate sum for this purpose.

Mr. MCCURDY: Let us total this up. You say there is ten thousand dollars to start with.

Mr. NOBBS: Yes, ten thousand dollars of premiums. That is in order to secure plaster models and give the architects who are making the designs a chance to study their work carefully.

Mr. PECK: You are not going to confine it exclusively to architects.

Mr. NOBBS: No, architects, sculptors and designers, but others than architects would have to associate themselves with architects in carrying the thing out.

The CHAIRMAN: We will start then with competition for designers, ten thousand dollars.

Mr. NOBBS: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: And for roadways one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Mr. NOBBS: Your assessors will cost you something. You will have to compensate these assessors, as they may be chosen from the very men who are likely winners of this competition, and we will have to consider their professional time. In an ordinary competition running say to a million dollars you find that the architect will get five per cent and in such cases five per cent of five per cent is adequate assessors remuneration. In this case we are not arriving at one decision. It is much more difficult to make eight awards. Allow between three and five thousand dollars for your assessors depending upon the various conditions which might arise. I think you will be safe in using that figure.

The CHAIRMAN: Of course the rules of the competition would have to be distributed and we wanted to get a rough estimate as to an amount to submit to the House now.

Col. OSBORNE: Then there are travelling expenses to be considered.

Mr. NOBBS: Yes. It all depends on where you get your assessors from. Put that down as an item and then allow another item of contingencies of say ten or fifteen per cent of the whole.

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Mr. McCURDY: You advise one Canadian, one French and one British assessor.

Mr. NOBBS: That is especially desirable in the second competition. I don't know whether these gentlemen should be brought in at the present stage of the competition or whether their advice should be asked after the designs are actually accepted. It depends on who they are to be. You know they always speak in guineas on the other side and you might put down another item of a couple of hundred guineas each. You might add two or three thousand dollars in connection with these outside assessors. As I said before, it is almost essential that you have a French architect in the final stage.

Mr. MOWAT: Did we eventually come to the conclusion that we were to have all Canadians?

The CHAIRMAN: We have not decided on anything yet.

Mr. NOBBS: It is very desirable to leave the final competition alone for the present. There are other things to occupy your time at this stage. You may get some very brilliant ideas from an unexpected source. Supposing you get twenty Canadian architects out of the first competition, it would seem to me very desirable to canvass their opinions about the whole thing before going on to the second.

Mr. MOWAT: We have got together somewhere. I move the Chairman be requested to draft a report.

The CHAIRMAN: I think first we had better go over the notes. Is there any recommendations you want to make beyond what you have suggested, Mr. Nobbs?

Mr. NOBBS: I felt very strongly that this should be restricted to Canadian architects and to Canadian designers.

Mr. McCURDY: To residents in Canada or Canadian born?

Mr. NOBBS: Canadian architects and sculptors. I think the true test should be does the man work in Canada; it should be for those men who are making their

living in Canada. It has been mighty hard times for the architects during the last six years, it was all right for the younger men in the service but for the older men it has been a pretty hard time.

Mr. PECK: I am ready to put a provision in that this be confined to Canadian designers.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nobbs, is there any other suggestion you can give us?

Mr. NOBBS: No, sir. If the Committee will decide definitely as to whether they want eight or seven of a kind—if that point is once decided it will be simply a matter of re-drafting the conditions accordingly.

The CHAIRMAN: The conditions were drafted on the assumption that we would have the seven and one larger one.

It is recommended then that a sum of not less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars be immediately voted to carry out the immediate construction of roadways, the cost of competitions, designs, and preliminary expenses. If we have two hundred and fifty thousand dollars right away we will not need the balance before the next session of Parliament.

Mr. PECK: The contracts would not be let until next year anyway.

Mr. NOBBS: Supposing I was retained right away to help to organize and run this competition I would have no difficulty in having these models in by September or October. The architects would be selected by September or October and they could have next winter to prepare their working drawings and get in touch with your department and enable you to start building operations actually next spring.

The CHAIRMAN: That would give us ample time up to February and March to go ahead.

After informal discussion the Committee adjourned.

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